THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

DOW JONES | News Corp * * * * * WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023 ~ VOL. CCLXXXI NO. 2 WSJ.com ★★★★ $5.00

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What's News

Business & Finance

For the first time in nearly a decade the two largest players in online advertising, Alphabet's Google and Facebook parent Meta, are no longer raking in the majority of U.S. digital-ad dollars, a decline industry insiders expect to continue in years to come. **A1**

◆ **The globe is shrinking** for Exxon and Chevron as the two largest U.S. oil companies pull back on big international oil projects and concentrate on a handful of more-lucrative assets closer to home. **A1**

◆ **Major U.S. stock indexes** lost ground in the year's first trading session, with the S&P 500, Nasdaq and Dow falling 0.4%, 0.8% and 0.03%, respectively. **B1**

◆ **Southwest Airlines** began doling out 25,000 frequent-flier points to travelers affected by the carrier's holiday meltdown. **B1**

◆ **Twitter plans** to expand the political advertisements it allows on the platform after banning most of them in 2019, in the latest policy change by Musk. **B3**

◆ **The University** of California is putting $4 billion into a Blackstone real-estate vehicle, providing crucial ballast for a fund that has been beset by a wave of redemptions. **B3**

◆ **A group of Microsoft** employees at the company's ZeniMax videogame unit voted to form the software giant's first labor union in the U.S. **B4**

◆ **Rivian fell short** of its 25,000-vehicle production target for 2022, capping a challenging year for the electric-truck startup. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **Republican McCarthy** fell short of winning the House speaker's gavel in three rounds of voting Tuesday, leaving the chamber without a leader as a determined bloc of conservative holdouts refused to relent over longstanding complaints about the direction of the party. **A1**

◆ **Ukraine is improving** its ability to intercept the Iranian-made Shahed drones that Russia has relied on to damage Ukrainian infrastructure, with Western-supplied air-defense systems increasingly helping Kyiv repel the attacks. **A7**

◆ **The FDA expanded** access to a drug that induces abortion, allowing bricks-and-mortar pharmacies to dispense the pills for the first time. **A3**

◆ **EU member states set** the stage for coordinated controls on passengers arriving from China in the wake of Beijing's reversal of its zero-Covid policy. **A7**

◆ **Israel's Ben-Gvir**, the far-right national security minister in the country's new government, visited Jerusalem's holiest site, raising tensions with Palestinians. **A6**

◆ **British rail workers** began a strike over pay, as the U.K. government faces the biggest wave of industrial action to hit the country in decades. **A6**

◆ **The Biden administration** is proposing to raise the fees companies must pay for employment-based visas to fund the agency that oversees legal immigration, the DHS said. **A3**

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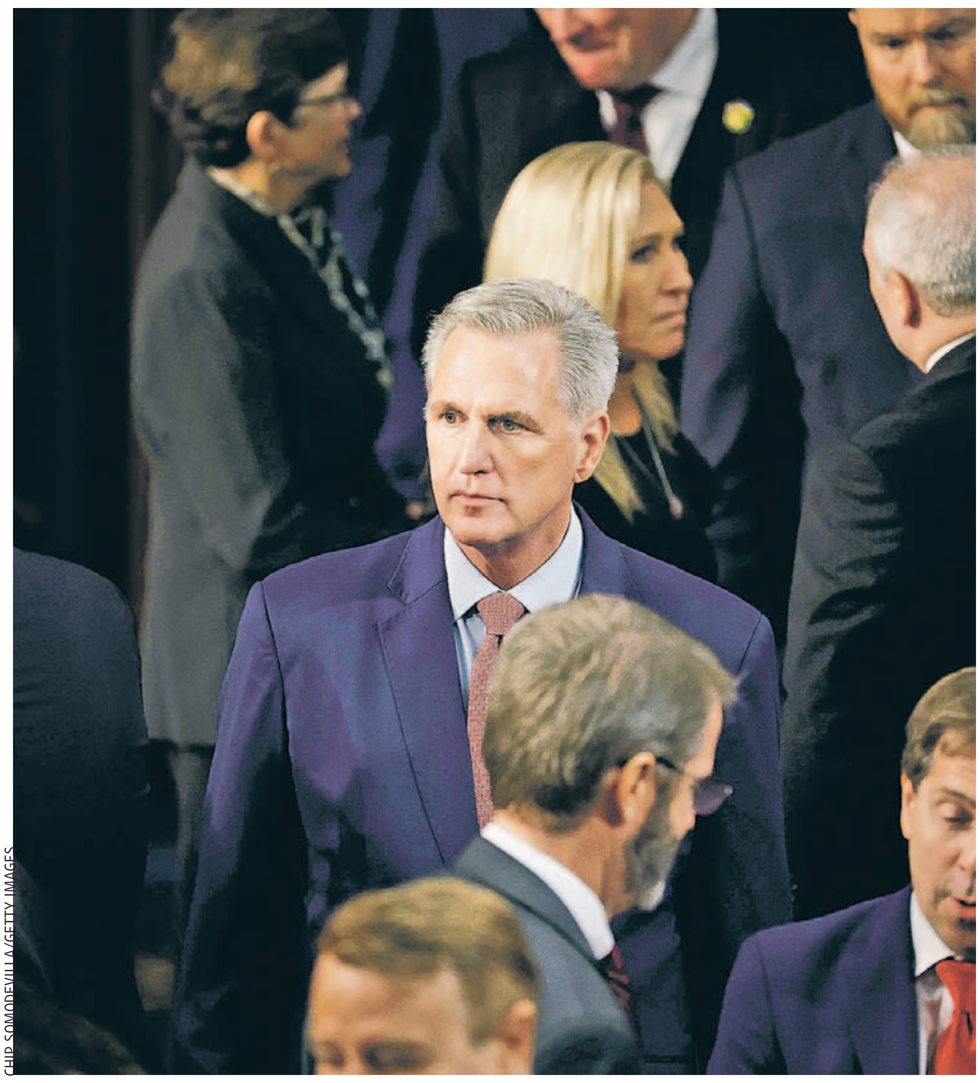

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Republican Kevin McCarthy, on the House floor, couldn't secure the speakership on Tuesday.

McCarthy Fails In Three Votes On Speaker Bid

House adjourns after revolt by GOP's right wing creates messy start to new Congress

By Natalie Andrews
And Eliza Collins

WASHINGTON—Republican Kevin McCarthy fell short of winning the House speaker's gavel in three rounds of voting Tuesday, leaving the chamber without a leader as a determined bloc of conservative holdouts refused to relent over longstanding complaints about the direction of the party.

The party's failure to pick a speaker underlined the fractious nature of the GOP conference on its first day in control of the chamber after four years of a Democratic majority. After the third vote was officially tallied with no winner, the House adjourned until Wednesday, with the leadership question still up in the air and neither side offering a way out of the deadlock. The speaker vote hadn't gone past a first ballot since 1923, when lawmakers needed nine ballots to pick a leader.

Because Republicans have such a narrow majority over Democrats—222 to 212, with one vacancy—Mr. McCarthy needed almost unanimous support from his party, but he failed to keep enough of his conference in line. Securing the speakership requires a majority of lawmakers present and voting—218 of the current 434 members if all cast votes.

The lack of a winner delayed the launch of the Republicans' agenda and could preview difficulties facing the party in legislating after it

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◆ Santos in Congress as Brazil eyes reopening case............. A4

Exxon, Chevron Focus on Projects in Americas

By Collin Eaton

The globe is shrinking for Exxon Mobil Corp. and Chevron Corp. as the two largest U.S. oil companies pull back on big international oil projects and concentrate on a handful of more-lucrative assets closer to home.

The two oil-and-gas giants plan to spend most of their annual budgets in the Americas this year, with Chevron saying it will pour 70% of the capital allocated for production into oil fields in the U.S., Argentina and Canada, and Exxon saying it will spend a similar portion of its budget in the Permian Basin of New Mexico and West Texas, Guyana, Brazil and liquefied-natural-gas projects.

Their focus on the Western Hemisphere is expected to continue for years as they give priority to growing shareholder returns and cut costly frontier drilling projects. Their retreat from places such as Southeast Asia, West Africa, Russia and parts of Latin America—sometimes by choice, sometimes by fiat—marks an era of retrenchment for companies that had spent decades putting stakes in the ground around the world.

"The cases of them going to new countries are few and far

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Google and Meta's Ad Dominance Fades as TikTok, Streamers Emerge

By Patience Haggin

For the first time in nearly a decade, the two largest players in online advertising are no longer raking in the majority of U.S. digital-ad dollars, a decline that industry insiders expect to continue in years to come.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. accounted for a combined 48.4% of U.S. digital-ad spending in 2022, according to estimates from research firm Insider Intelligence Inc. Their combined U.S. market share hadn't been under 50% since 2014, said Insider Intelligence, which expects that number to drop to 44.9% this year.

The ad businesses of Google and Meta are still growing, but Insider's data suggest the pace is slower than the rest of the U.S. digital-advertising market. Insider forecasting analyst Zachary Goldner said the erosion of their combined market share was the result of brands having access to more advertising formats.

"All marketers want more options," Mr. Goldner said.

Google and Meta each faced headwinds in 2022, as people spent less time online than in the early days of the pandemic; marketers concerned about a possible economic downturn reined in ad spending; Amazon.com Inc. and ByteDance Ltd.'s TikTok continued their emergence as a force in digital advertising; and more streaming services started to embrace advertising.

Meta and other social-media companies including Snap Inc. also suffered from Apple Inc.'s 2021 decision to require apps on its devices to ask users if they wanted to be tracked.

The majority of iPhone users opted not to be, hitting the heart of Meta's business: its ability to target ads at users with precision and prove to marketers that the ads generate sales.

Google wasn't as affected by Apple's move because its flagship search-ad business relies on customer intent—users' search terms immediately reveal what they are interested in—rather than data collected

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FTX Founder Pleads Not Guilty

DAVID DEE DELGADO/REUTERS

Sam Bankman-Fried, who founded the FTX cryptocurrency exchange, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to fraud and other criminal charges in federal court in Manhattan. B1

More Bosses Order Staff Back to Office

By Chip Cutter

Employers are losing their patience with empty desks in the office.

Companies including investment giant Vanguard Group, workplace technology company Paycom Software Inc. and others have sent directives to employees in recent weeks, urging workers to follow existing hybrid schedules or to come into the office on additional days in 2023, according to internal memos viewed by The Wall Street Journal and interviews with employees. In some cases, bosses have told those who fail to comply that they could face termination within weeks.

Employees at some companies have challenged new directives in corporate all-hands sessions. Those pushing to remain at home said they find in-office work unproductive and commuting inefficient. Employers, meanwhile, said bringing workers back together is important because it helps with issues such as problem solving, training new hires and reinforcing corporate culture.

"There's a little bit of a tug

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◆ Office landlords face recession risk........................... B6

The Circus Came to Town— And Bought the Place

* * *

A company known for adult-themed acrobatic shows purchased Nipton, Calif.

By Kirsten Grind

What happens when a circus buys a town?

The small community of Nipton, Calif., is living through the experiment.

The 80-acre plot of dusty land on the edge of the Mojave Desert, boasting a general store and a couple dozen or so inhabitants, was privately owned for decades by a married couple and then put on the block several years ago.

Town Hall?

In early 2022, along came an unusual buyer. Spiegelworld, a Las Vegas-based theater company known for adult-themed acrobatic performances, quietly acquired Nipton for more than $2.5 million in cash.

Spiegelworld has never owned or operated a town before.

The company is best known for its "unapologetically raunchy" shows on the Las Vegas Strip, including one called "Absinthe" at Caesars Palace, an old-timey spectacle featuring scantily-clad performers in a small tent space.

In the months since owning Nipton, Spiegelworld has had to contend with the complicated reality of governing a town. The company and its employees have cleaned up 250 tons of debris, tangled with electrical and septic-tank snafus and met Nipton's quirky, longtime residents.

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Royal Input Riles Saudi Wealth Fund

Crown prince has clashed with professional managers over how to invest oil riches

By Rory Jones, Stephen Kalin and Summer Said

As the Covid-19 pandemic sent global markets swooning in early 2020, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, sensing opportunity, pressed the country's sovereign-wealth fund to go on an international stock-buying spree.

The board of the Public Investment Fund, or PIF, resisted the move as too risky, but soon found itself overruled by an even higher authority, Prince Mohammed's father, King Salman, according to an October podcast by the PIF governor, Yasir al-Rumayyan.

Without sufficient liquid assets to satisfy the prince's desire to move quickly, the PIF prevailed on the Saudi central bank to give it tens of billions of dollars, despite concerns from government officials that doing so might undermine the local currency's peg to the dollar, according to people familiar with the matter. Prince Mohammed, the PIF chairman, personally picked many of the stocks the fund bought, fast-tracking the purchases through an ad hoc committee that bypassed normal decision-making channels,

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INSIDE

JASON GAY
Damar Hamlin's collapse is an urgent reminder that football can wait. **A12**

MARKETS & FINANCE
Tesla shares dropped 12%, in their worst daily decline in over two years. **B11**

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U.S. NEWS

Pentagon Revisits Arms-Industry Mergers

By Doug Cameron

U.S. defense companies are finding it tough to quickly replenish weaponry such as missiles and artillery shells for Ukraine, leading Pentagon officials to revisit whether industry consolidation has gone too far.

Two decades of mergers and acquisitions have left the top six contractors to share the majority of Pentagon spending on military equipment. In the 1990s, some 50 firms vied for big contracts.

The largest defense companies, like auto makers, manufacture fewer things themselves than they used to and rely more on subcontracting. The broader defense industrial base shrank to 55,000 vendors in 2021 from 69,000 in 2016, and those smaller companies have become a choke point as shortages of labor, chips, rocket motors and other components are hobbling efforts to boost arms production.

The Pentagon "is increasingly reliant on a smaller number of contractors for these critical capabilities," Halimah Najieb-Locke, deputy assistant secretary of defense in charge of industrial-base issues, said at a recent seminar on consolidation hosted by George Mason University. "That impacts everybody's ability to ramp production."

Pentagon and antitrust officials have for a decade discouraged further mergers among the six prime contractors while approving most involving the next tier of suppliers. That has started to change.

Last year, the Justice Department tried to stop a combination between two cybersecurity companies, though a judge in October declined to block the merger.

The Federal Trade Commission last January sued to block plans by **Lockheed Martin** Corp., the world's biggest defense company, to buy rocket maker **Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings** Inc. for $4.4 billion. Lockheed dropped the deal.

Aerojet is an example of a small but crucial cog in the defense industry. Labor and supplier issues have delayed its deliveries of rocket motors, which are used in the Javelin and Stinger missiles deployed in Ukraine.

Aerojet Chief Executive Eileen Drake said in November that a fire at a supplier disrupted production, but that the company had stood up a new manufacturing plant, improved hiring and bolstered its own supply chain.

Raytheon Technologies Corp., which makes the Javelin along with Lockheed, said it will be 2024 before Aerojet catches up with engine orders.

A boardroom battle emerged after the collapse of Aerojet's sale to Lockheed, and the company was again put up for sale, culminating in last month's $4.7 billion bid by **L3Harris Technologies** Inc., the smallest of the six prime U.S. defense companies by sales.

That deal is also subject to shareholder and regulatory antitrust approval, giving the Pentagon, the Justice Department and the FTC a chance to include the lessons learned from almost 12 months of conflict in Ukraine in their analysis.

> **The number of big producers of aircraft, ships and missiles has shrunk over the years.**

A challenge for the Pentagon and antitrust enforcers is how to measure the potential impact of defense-industry deals. There has been relatively little academic work in the defense sector, in contrast with industries such as healthcare, in part because of a lack of available data and the difficulty of measuring outcomes.

The Pentagon's Ms. Najieb-Locke said the department is working to commission more academic work on the sector and improve the available data to help its analysis of deals.

The review of the L3Harris bid to acquire Aerojet will provide a test of whether a deal that makes a company better able to produce more outweighs any anticompetitive effects, said analysts and legal experts, most of whom expect it to be approved.

"We don't see regulatory hurdles to an L3Harris-Aerojet deal as there are no vertical integration issues, and the resulting company is still smaller than several larger primes," said Byron Callan, a defense analyst at Capital Alpha Partners LLC.

L3Harris, like Lockheed before it, said being part of a larger group would help Aerojet resolve its challenges and invest in future products.

While the Pentagon will consider whether an acquisition would help a company's ability to meet production goals, that is unlikely to be sufficient to approve transactions that are found to reduce competition, said Jeff Bialos, a partner at Eversheds Sutherland LLP and a former industrial-affairs chief at the Pentagon.

Whatever decision the Pentagon makes on future acquisitions, it will be tough to reverse years of consolidation. The number of big producers of aircraft, ships and missiles has shrunk to two or three in each category.

Pentagon officials have expressed concern that bigger companies wield so much political clout that, without competition, investment decisions can be distorted and taxpayers end up spending more on defense equipment.

Ad Hold Fades for Tech Giants

Continued from Page One

from app and web tracking. Its U.S. digital-advertising market share slightly rose to 28.8% in 2022, Insider Intelligence said, but is expected to fall to 26.5% this year.

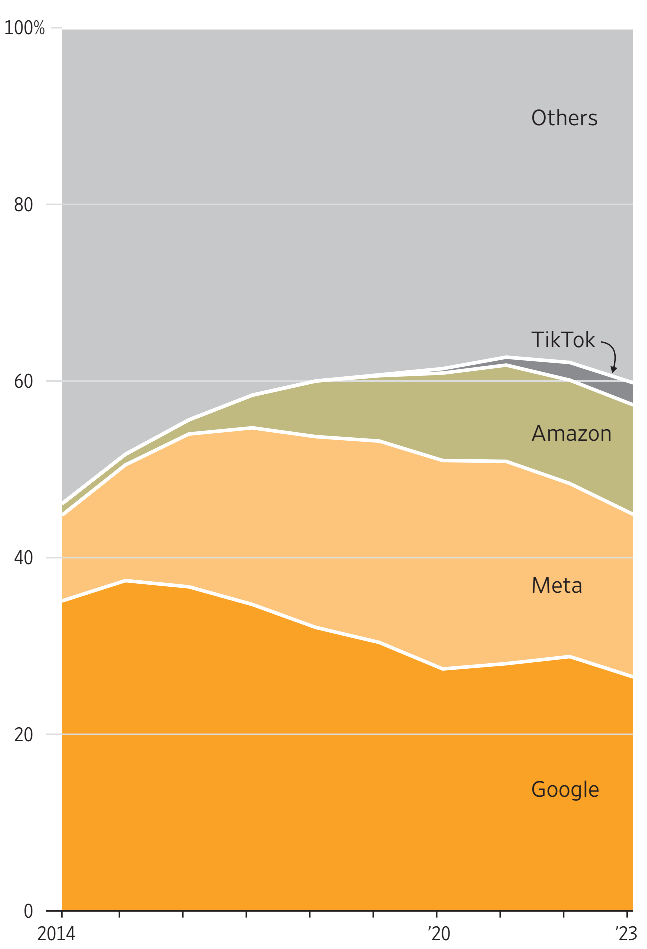
Google didn't respond to a request to comment. On the company's most recent earnings call in October, executives talked about how search-based advertising tends to do well during challenging economic times.

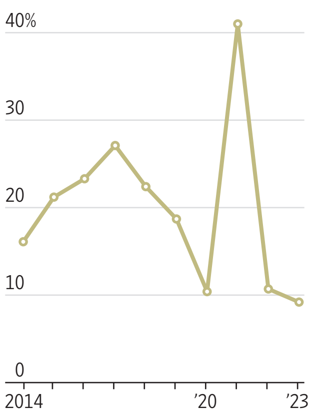
Meta had no comment. In its most recent earnings call, Meta said the tracking restriction continued to affect its ad business but noted the effect had diminished.

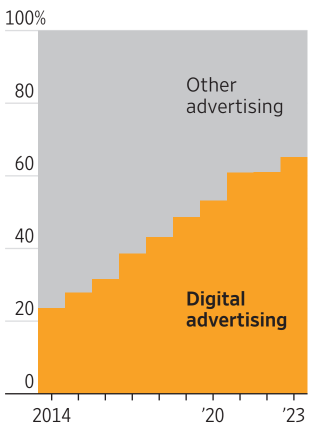
Apple's tracking restriction had an impact for emerging e-commerce companies, which are important to Meta's ad business. Supergut Chief Executive Marc Washington said the maker of gut-health products used to spend about 80% of its ad budget on Meta's Facebook and Instagram platforms, with the rest going to Google. In early 2022, he noticed that the cost of bringing in new customers through advertising on Meta's platforms was twice as high as it was before Apple's privacy changes. Supergut shifted about half of what it spent on Meta to TikTok, a short-form video platform popular with younger audiences.

Mr. Washington said Meta remained Supergut's most efficient advertising platform, but said there are early indications of "TikTok ads performing as well and in some cases better than some of our Meta campaigns."

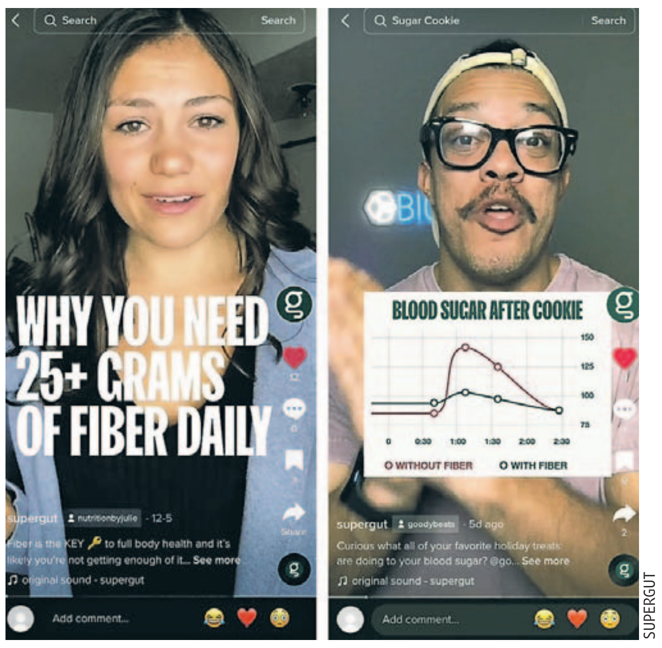
TikTok's command of the U.S. digital-ad market more than doubled in 2022, Insider Intelligence said, because of its







*Estimated Note: Meta was known as Facebook until late 2021.
Sources: Insider Intelligence (share of revenue by company); GroupM (change in spending, digital ad share)



Supergut began buying ads like these on TikTok in 2022. It has shifted some of its budget from Meta to the short-form video-recommendation app, which is popular with younger audiences.

nearly 100 million U.S. monthly active users, the virality of the platform and its hold over Gen Z, millennials and influencers. Still, its overall share remains small, accounting for 2% of U.S. digital-ad spending, according to Insider Intelligence, which expects that number to grow to 2.5% this year.

The gains came as TikTok has received increased scrutiny from Washington, D.C., over national security concerns U.S. officials have said the Chinese-owned app poses—accusations that TikTok has disputed. The company also faces competition from Google's YouTube and Meta's Instagram, which have launched offerings that mimic its short-form video-recommendation format.

One already large digital-advertising player that gained market share in the U.S. last year was Amazon, whose ad business is powered by its ability to target users by their purchase and browsing history. The e-commerce giant accounted for 11.7% of U.S. digital-ad spending last year and is poised to grow to 12.4% in 2023, Insider said.

"Our advertising is at the point where consumers are ready to spend," Amazon Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky said on the company's October conference call.

Sam Bloom, chief executive of digital-ad agency Camelot Strategic Marketing and Media, said some of its clients that had withheld selling on Amazon started doing so last year, using Amazon ads to promote their products on the platform.

Other retailers have followed in Amazon's footsteps by building digital-ad businesses based on their consumer data, known as retail media networks. Combined, Walmart Inc., eBay Inc., Etsy Inc. and Instacart took in about 1.4% of digital-ad dollars spent in the U.S. last year, according to Insider.

Edwin Fu, chief executive of Placements.io Inc., a tech company that works with digital-publishers and online retailers on billing systems for their ad inventory, described the rise of retail media networks as a "massive race to do what Amazon did."

Streaming services also are commanding a larger slice of the digital-advertising pie. Mr. Bloom said many of its clients are shifting their spending away from traditional television and toward video platforms in an effort to reach younger viewers.

Insider said Roku Inc., Walt Disney Co.'s Hulu, Paramount Global's Pluto TV and Paramount+, Fox Corp.'s Tubi and Comcast Corp.'s Peacock accounted for about 3.6% of U.S. digital-ad spending last year. The trend is expected to accelerate now that the streaming industry's two-largest players, Netflix Inc. and Disney+, have launched ad-supported versions.

Vincent Létang, executive vice president of global market research at Magna, a media-investment firm that is part of Interpublic Group of Cos.' Mediabrands, called Netflix and Disney's entry into the market "a game-changing moment" for ad-supported streaming. "They bring a potentially huge number of viewers," he said, and a wealth of premium video content.

Given the emergence of new digital-advertising alternatives, Google and Meta's declining market share is hardly surprising, said digital ad consultant Ratko Vidakovic. The surprise was actually their 2021 performance, an aberration that he said was caused by the pandemic.

U.S. digital-ad spending grew by a whopping 41% in 2021, according to media and data giant GroupM, part of WPP PLC. That growth number fell to 10.7% last year and is expected to slip to 9.2% this year. GroupM expects overall ad spending in the U.S.—excluding political advertising—to grow by 5.5% this year.

Despite the expectations of slowing growth, digital-advertising platforms will take in an ever-larger share of ad dollars this year, GroupM said: Nearly two-thirds of total U.S. ad spending is expected to go to digital advertising in 2023, compared with less than half in 2019, the last year before the pandemic.

More Staff Told to Go Into Office

Continued from Page One

of war going on right now," said David Garfield, global head of industries at consulting firm AlixPartners, who has worked with executives on how to approach return-to-office discussions. "Employers are not having an easy time of it."

For much of the pandemic, companies took a fairly soft approach to policy enforcement, fearful that too rigid a stance on in-office work could harm morale or lead to turnover, executives and advisers said. Although companies set office policies, some managers largely allowed workers to ignore them, workers and human-resources executives said. The average office occupancy in 10 major U.S. cities remained below 50% for much of 2022, according to data from security firm Kastle Systems.

As the job market shifts under threat of a recession, employees' leverage over companies might be slipping, human-resources advisers said, empowering bosses to push for changes in work styles.

Surveys have shown that most employees are willing to work in an office at least a few days a week, and many workers said they see benefits of being in an office. Some employers said enforcing the rules is a matter of fairness to the workers who have been complying.

At Vanguard Group, based outside Philadelphia, leaders sent a memo to employees in December saying many staffers hadn't been following the company's requirement to work in offices on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"Uneven and inconsistent adoption has created inequities in how the model is applied and has made it difficult to realize the benefits of in-person learning, collaboration and connection," the company said, according to a memo viewed by the Journal.

In the days that followed, some Vanguard employees said they were told by their managers that if they didn't comply with the return-to-office policy, they would be terminated in the coming weeks and not receive severance.

At a recent departmental all-hands meeting at Vanguard, a recording of which was shared with the Journal, one team leader told employees that the company was open to shifting its return-to-office policy, but that executives wanted to at least try working in a hybrid manner. The team leader said it wouldn't be fair to allow some employees to flout the rules.

In a statement, a Vanguard spokeswoman said that the company had implemented a hybrid model to capture the benefits of flexibility with an in-person environment, and that the company's collaborative culture is critical for the experience of both clients and employees.

> **Employees at some companies have challenged the new directives.**

Others are asking employees to work full time in an office. At Oklahoma City-based workplace technology company Paycom Software, some members of the technology team were told recently that they would need to work in an office five days a week beginning as early as January, according to a memo viewed by the Journal.

At Paycom, nearly 80% of the company's employees are already working five days a week at the company's headquarters, a spokesman said.

"From the start of the pandemic, Paycom communicated that working from home would be a temporary solution while we prioritized everyone's health and well-being," a spokesman said.

Several large New York banks, including Goldman Sachs Group Inc., took a hard-line approach earlier in the pandemic and pushed to get employees back together. The result is that offices now look largely like they did before Covid-19, executives said.

"We have nudged, cajoled, evolved," David Solomon, Goldman Sachs's chief executive, said at The Wall Street Journal's CEO Council Summit in December. "But the bottom line is, we generally are operating pretty close to the way we operated before the pandemic."

When hiring new employees, some companies are now explicit about on-site requirements. In initial interviews for roles at LifePro Financial Services Inc. in San Diego, candidates are told that the job is "100% in-office," said Heather Ulz, LifePro's chief executive.

The roughly 40-person company worked remotely early in the pandemic, Ms. Ulz said. She brought people back full time in the summer of 2020.

Over time, almost a third of the firm's employees quit after deciding the office policy wasn't for them, Ms. Ulz said. It can now take longer to fill positions because of some candidates' preferences for hybrid or remote work. But overall, she said the firm's culture and camaraderie are improved by in-person work.

Ms. Ulz, who was ahead of most employers in pushing for office attendance, said many of her industry peers are now asking for her input on how to bring their own employees into offices more.

"The biggest question is: 'How do you guys do it?' " she said.

CORRECTIONS & AMPLIFICATIONS

Securities filings show that the median worker at **Twitter** Inc. made $232,626 in 2021. A Heard on the Street column on Tuesday about the economy said the average worker at Twitter made that amount.

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FDA Widens Access to Abortion Pills

By Liz Essley Whyte

The Food and Drug Administration expanded access to a drug that induces abortion, allowing bricks-and-mortar pharmacies to dispense the pills for the first time.

Under changes the agency issued Tuesday, any pharmacy can complete and sign a short form to become certified to provide the so-called abortion pill, not just the handful of mail-order pharmacies that were permitted to ship prescriptions during the pandemic.

The moves won't change the availability of abortion for many women. A dozen states ban abortion throughout pregnancy, and 18 require a physician to be physically present with a patient to prescribe abortion pills, effectively banning telehealth for abortions, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit that tracks abortion statistics and supports abortion rights.

More doctors, however, may sign up to be certified to prescribe abortion pills because they will no longer need to stock and dispense the medication as well. Some women who are concerned a family member or roommate might open a mailed package of pills might feel more comfortable filling a prescription at a pharmacy.

The action will also likely deepen tensions between abortion-rights supporters and opponents over access to the drug, which many women seeking to end their pregnancies have turned to, especially after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year.

"At a time when people across the country are struggling to obtain abortion care services this modification is critically important to expanding access to medication abortion services," said **Danco Laboratories** LLC, one of the companies that make the pill.

The abortion pill, called mifepristone, is sold as a generic or under the brand name Mifeprex. It is also sometimes known as RU-486. It works by blocking a hormone necessary to sustain pregnancy.

Before the pandemic, women could get the pill only if they went to certain health-care settings, such as a doctor's office. During the pandemic, the FDA allowed doctors to prescribe the pill via telehealth and allowed certified mail-order pharmacies to send it to patients.

The agency said in late 2021 that it would permit telehealth abortion to continue permanently, though some states ban the practice.

Women seeking an abortion by pill take mifepristone followed by misoprostol, which causes uterine contractions. The FDA says the regimen is safe and effective up to 10 weeks in pregnancy.

Most abortions in the U.S. happen via the pill, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Several organizations that mail abortion pills, sometimes to women in states with abortion bans, have seen shipments increase since the Supreme Court's latest abortion decision.

Aid Access, a nonprofit based in Europe that mails pills worldwide said it is receiving about 4,000 requests for abortion pills a month from the U.S.

In addition to broadening access to bricks-and-mortar pharmacies, the FDA's action cemented its earlier decision to allow telehealth abortions.

Northern California Braces for More Rain and Possible Flooding

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

Northern California is preparing for more rain and widespread flooding just days after a major storm left the region drenched from a record-setting downpour.

There are 3 to 8 inches of rain estimated for California's Bay Area and central coast starting Wednesday and continuing into Thursday, according to the National Weather Service. The central coast area, which is between Los Angeles and the Bay Area, includes Santa Barbara, Pismo Beach and Big Sur.

The heavy rain is a byproduct of a so-called atmospheric river, a long, narrow storm system that pulls moisture from the Pacific Ocean inland, the weather service said. The region will remain under a flood watch throughout the storm.

The National Weather Service on Tuesday predicted widespread flooding because the ground is already saturated from rain, and "extensive street flooding" in parts of the Bay Area and the central coast.

The flooding could trigger shallow landslides, the weather service said. Residents in the region should prepare for the possibility of power outages and road closures that could last for several days, the agency said. In San Francisco, above, public works employees loaded sandbags into a car in advance of the storm.

An atmospheric river is a flowing column of condensed water vapor in the atmosphere that produces significant levels of rain and snow. Powerful atmospheric rivers can produce heavy rains and floods. Around 30% to 50% of the annual precipitation on the West Coast occurs in just a few atmospheric river events, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

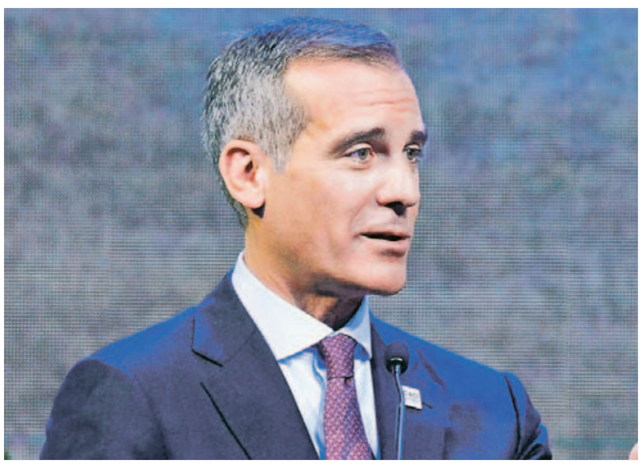
The region is still reeling from a previous atmospheric river over the weekend that poured 5.46 inches of rain on San Francisco, the city's second-highest rainfall since the 19th century. Oakland received 4.75 inches of rain, marking the city's wettest day ever.

Floodwaters breached two levees in southern Sacramento. Rockslides and floods closed roadways, and winds knocked out power for thousands of residents.

The downpour came as much of California has been plagued by drought.

—Joseph De Avila

Biden Renominates Picks for New Senate


GUSTAVO GARELLO/GETTY IMAGES

HYOUNG CHANG/THE DENVER POST/GETTY IMAGES

J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Biden on Tuesday renominated, from top, Eric Garcetti to be ambassador to India, Phil Washington to lead the FAA and Danny Werfel, shown in June 2013, to run the IRS.

By Ken Thomas

WASHINGTON—The White House submitted to the Senate dozens of presidential selections who failed to win confirmation last year, including judicial nominees and high-profile picks such as former Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, President Biden's choice to serve as ambassador to India.

The president on Tuesday renominated Mr. Garcetti along with Phil Washington to lead the Federal Aviation Administration and Danny Werfel to run the Internal Revenue Service.

In all, the White House acted on the first day of the new Senate to renominate 85 of the approximately 175 nominees who didn't clear the body last year. The first tranche of nominees set to be resubmitted includes about 60 foreseen for agency leadership roles and national-security positions, including ambassadors, as well as 25—or about half—of the administration's pending judicial nominees.

Any nominee who didn't get a vote in the last Congress must be renominated by Mr. Biden to be considered by the new one, which was sworn in Tuesday. Two White House officials said the administration would make a significant number of further renominations in the coming weeks.

The officials said the judicial nominees would be renominated roughly in the order they have received hearings. The administration plans to renominate about half of pending judicial nominations later in January, they said.

Others in the initial round of renominations include Gigi Sohn to serve as a member of the Federal Communications Commission, and Dilawar Syed to serve as deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration. Mr. Syed, who would be the highest-ranking Muslim official in the administration if confirmed, was nominated in March 2021.

The White House also renominated Michael Ratney, a career foreign-service official, as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Sen. Ron Wyden (D., Ore.) put a hold on the nomination during the last term because

Dozens of picks failed to win confirmation from the Senate last year.

he wanted the Biden administration to develop a plan to prevent Saudi nationals suspected of crimes from leaving the U.S., after a Saudi national accused of killing a 15-year-old Oregonian in a hit-and-run was able to flee the country.

Mr. Garcetti's nomination has stalled amid concerns that he ignored allegations that one of his former top aides sexually harassed subordinates. In the past, Mr. Garcetti has said he was unaware of the allegations. He completed his second term as Los Angeles mayor in December.

Noting that Mr. Garcetti unanimously cleared the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations last year, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said he is well-qualified, adding, "we're hopeful that the full Senate will confirm him promptly."

Mr. Garcetti said he is "grateful for the president's confidence, and strong support on both sides of the aisle in the Senate." He said he looks forward to completing the process so he can begin serving in India.

The diplomatic post has been vacant since January 2021. India assumed the presidency of the Group of 20 nations in December and will host G-20 leaders in New Delhi in September.

Mr. Washington, the chief executive of Denver International Airport, was nominated to lead the FAA in July but has been awaiting a confirmation hearing. Republicans have raised questions about his limited experience in aviation.

Mr. Washington previously led the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for six years and headed a Denver-area transportation agency.

The White House noted that Denver's airport is among the world's busiest, and said Mr. Washington, an Army veteran, would bring the experience needed at the FAA.

Mr. Werfel, who led the IRS in 2013 on an acting basis, would be tasked with leading the controversial $80 billion expansion of the agency if he wins confirmation. Lawmakers approved the additional funding to boost enforcement and modernize the agency's technology.

Administration Seeks Higher Fees for Company Visas

By Michelle Hackman

WASHINGTON—The Biden administration is proposing to raise the fees companies must pay for employment-based visas to fund the agency that oversees legal immigration, the Department of Homeland Security said Tuesday.

Under the proposal, which will take months to complete, the primary fee for an H-1B visa would jump to $1,595 from $470. The visa, which allows immigrants with college degrees to live and work in the U.S. for up to six years before becoming permanent residents, is a favorite among technology and financial companies along with universities and other nonprofit research centers.

The fee for an L-1 visa, which allows companies to transfer executives from offices abroad to the U.S., would rise to $1,985 from $460.

The cost of applying for an EB-5 visa, which allows foreign investors to become U.S. permanent residents if they invest at least $900,000 in a U.S.-based project, would increase to $11,160 from $3,675.

The agency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, released its fee-increase proposals for a 60-day comment period. It is expected to take several more months to incorporate feedback from the comments before a new fee structure is completed.

The fees are needed to fund the agency that processes applications for citizenship, green cards and visas along with evaluating applicants for asylum or refugee status. Congress provides about 4% of the agency's funding, and the rest—including services such as selecting refugees from abroad—must come from application fees the agency collects.

The steep rise in fees for employment-based immigration benefits allows the agency to keep fees for citizenship and other humanitarian programs roughly the same, the agency said. The cost of applying for citizenship, for example, will rise to $760 from $725.

The agency is required by law to update its fee structure every two years, but hasn't done so since 2016.

The Trump administration attempted to enact a new set of fees in 2019 that would have, among other things, raised funds by nearly doubling the cost of applying for citizenship and attaching a first-ever fee of $50 to file an asylum application. Those changes were halted by a federal court.

In 2020, the agency had a funding crisis as falling immigration applications under President Trump coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic, which temporarily closed immigration offices.

Santos in Congress as Brazil Eyes Case

Embattled Rep.-elect George Santos (R., N.Y.) spent his first day in Congress dodging reporters and voting in the contentious race for speaker, while Brazilian authorities said they intended to reopen a criminal investigation into allegations that he committed check fraud there in 2008.

*By **Byron Tau** in Washington and **Luciana Magalhaes** in São Paulo*

Rep.-elect George Santos sat alone at the back on the Republican side of the House chamber on Tuesday.

MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Santos, a 34-year-old who won a narrow victory for Republicans in a district of Long Island usually dominated by the Democrats, has faced scrutiny in recent weeks after admitting that he had lied to voters about his work and education history.

Federal and local prosecutors in the U.S. are investigating Mr. Santos over the fabrications. He has faced calls from Democrats to resign while the House Republican leadership has remained largely silent on the matter.

Mr. Santos himself was also largely silent Tuesday.

Shortly before the House gaveled in at noon, Mr. Santos left his office in the Longworth House Office Building and was followed by about a dozen reporters, all shouting questions at the freshman lawmaker as he made his way through the halls of numerous House office buildings.

Mr. Santos said nothing in response to the dozens of questions lobbed at him about the investigations in Brazil and elsewhere, other than affirming that he would vote for Republican leader Kevin McCarthy for speaker.

At times, Mr. Santos was clearly lost, needing to double back numerous times.

He arrived on the House floor and took a seat alone in the back of the chamber on the Republican side of the House chamber. As members of Congress mingled all around him, he didn't engage with anyone and no one had engaged with him.

He occasionally stared at his phone and looked around, and then voted for Mr. McCarthy on all three ballots—not enough to win him the top job.

Mr. McCarthy's bid to become speaker fell short after three rounds of voting and the House adjourned until noon on Wednesday. Mr. Santos and other new lawmakers won't be sworn into office until after the speaker election is resolved.

In Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday, public prosecutors said in a statement that they have requested a court reopen the fraud case against Mr. Santos once the judges return from recess in the coming days. The case had been suspended because police had been unable to find him, but his whereabouts became known due to media coverage of his falsehoods during his campaign for Congress.

At the age of 19, Mr. Santos was in Rio de Janeiro, where his Brazilian mother, Fatima Devolder, was working as a nurse for a man named Délio Alemão, who had entrusted her with his checkbook, according to court records. Mr. Santos took two of the blank checks to buy some $1,300 worth of goods at a clothing store, including a pair of sneakers, as presents for his friend, according to court documents and the police.

The store reported the crime after Mr. Santos's friend returned to the shop to try to exchange the sneakers, which allowed them to trace the checks back to Mr. Santos.

An employee later spoke to Mr. Santos on Orkut, a once-popular now-extinct social-media site in Brazil, where Mr. Santos admitted the crime, according to court documents. Mr. Santos wrote to the employee on the messaging site, apologizing, saying: "I know I messed up, but I want to pay."

A representative for Mr. Santos didn't respond to a request to comment Tuesday but Mr. Santos previously said he hasn't committed any crimes and still intends to serve in Congress.

"I'm not a fraud," he said in an interview last week on WABC. "If I disappointed anyone by résumé embellishment, I'm sorry, and I will deliver to you on everything I campaigned on."

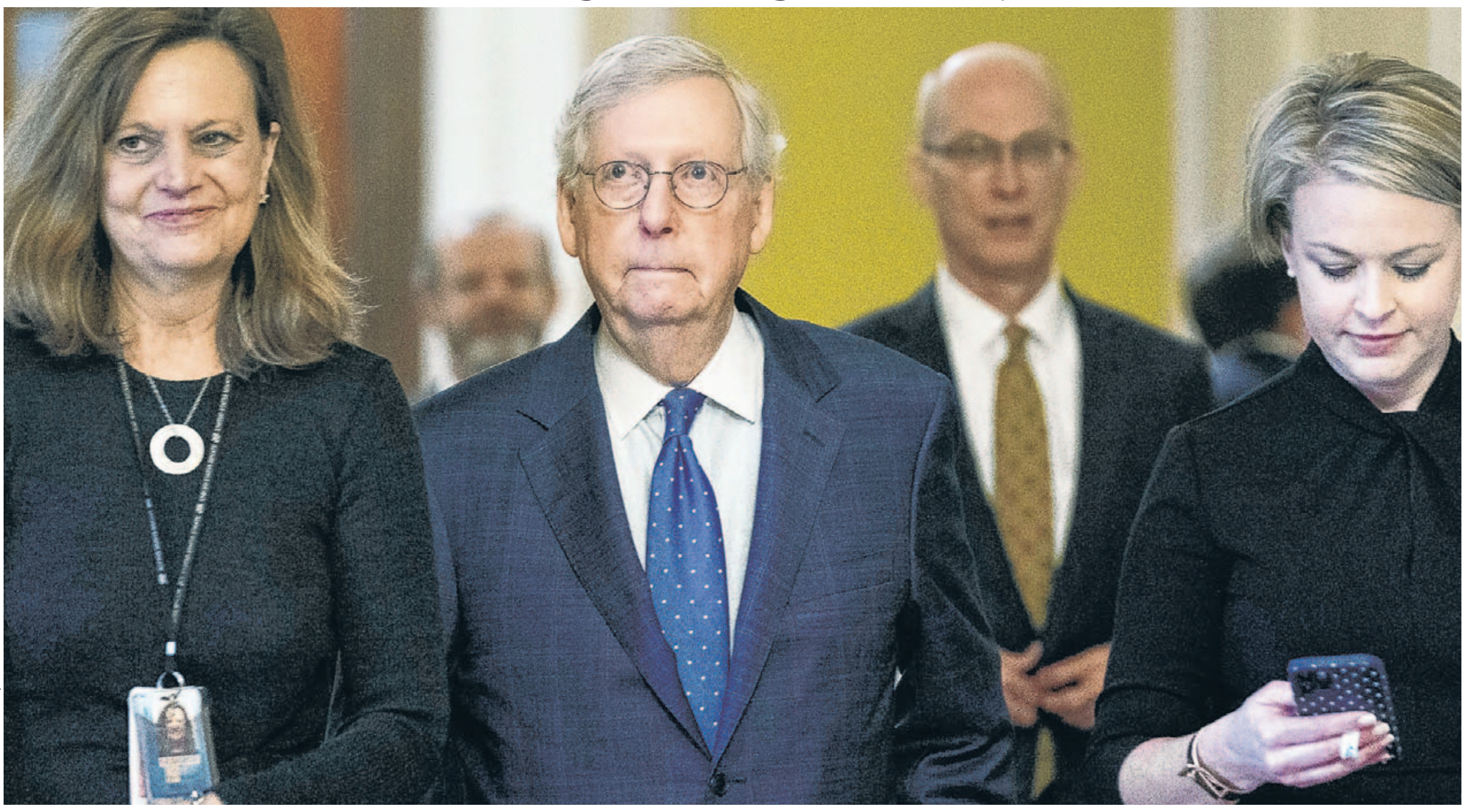
Mr. Santos had acknowledged lying about graduating from Baruch College. He also admitted that he never worked directly for Wall Street firms Citigroup Inc. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc., as he had previously suggested on his campaign's website.

Mr. Santos had embraced both his Catholic faith and what he has said is his Jewish identity at events, and his campaign website stated that his maternal grandparents fled Jewish persecution in Europe during World War II. He referred to himself as a "proud American Jew" in a campaign document.

Fábio Koifman, professor of history at Rio de Janeiro's Federal Rural University, who studied online records of Mr. Santos's family tree, said there is no evidence that any members of his family were Jewish or that they fled the Holocaust.

—Samantha Pearson and Natalie Andrews contributed to this article.

Mitch McConnell Hits Mark as Longest-Serving Senate Party Leader



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

RECORD RUN: Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky began a new term Tuesday as minority leader while fellow Republicans in the House tussled over whom to elect as speaker. Mr. McConnell, who was picked again for the post in November, paid tribute to the prior longest-serving Senate leader, Mike Mansfield, a Montana Democrat.

GOP Fails To Settle On Speaker

Continued from Page One
took the majority following November's elections. With no speaker in place, lawmakers can't be sworn in and no other business is allowed, delaying a planned opening-day vote on rolling back funding for the Internal Revenue Service.

The contest exposed the deep fractures within the GOP about the direction of the party and the lack of consensus over who should lead it forward. Mr. McCarthy and his allies said they were prepared to take as many rounds of votes as needed to wear down opponents, whom they painted as self-serving and detrimental to the party. If it is clear that Mr. McCarthy can't sway his detractors, an alternative candidate could emerge, but there were no signs he was prepared to back down.

"We're staying in until we win," Mr. McCarthy said. Pointing to an 8½-hour speech he gave in November 2021, he said: "I have the record for the longest speech ever on the floor. I don't have a problem getting a record for most votes." He told GOP lawmakers in a morning meeting: "I earned this job. We earned this majority, and goddamn it, we are going to win it today," according to a person in the meeting.

Late Tuesday as Mr. McCarthy left the Capitol, he said he was continuing talks with lawmakers and under no circumstance would he leave the race.

Most Republicans stood by Mr. McCarthy. Rep. Elise Stefanik of New York, in nominating him for the first ballot, called him a "strong conservative" who opposes abortion, backs gun rights and is committed to cutting government spending. Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R., Texas), who backed Mr. McCarthy, said holdouts were grandstanding. "This handful of members is very clearly looking for notoriety over principle," he said.

His critics also stood their ground, casting the vote as an important moment for the party to stake out a firmer conservative direction. They also said Mr. McCarthy has been too eager to work with Democrats, an impression he tried to erase in recent months with his opposition to the bipartisan omnibus spending bill that passed in December.

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R., Fla.), an outspoken critic of Mr. McCarthy, said: "If you want to drain the swamp, you cannot put the biggest alligator in charge of the exercise."

Another detractor, Rep. Chip Roy (R., Texas), expressed his frustration over what he saw as runaway spending with little oversight. "This is not personal. It's not," he said. Both he and Mr. Gaetz backed Rep. Jim Jordan (R., Ohio) for the post, while Mr. Jordan continued to vote for Mr. McCarthy.

There were few signs of movement in the three rounds of voting, with Mr. McCarthy failing to narrow the gap and instead seeing it widen slightly.

Among GOP lawmakers, the first round was 203 for Mr. McCarthy and 10 for protest candidate Andy Biggs of Arizona, with nine GOP votes for other current and former lawmakers, including Mr. Jordan. In the second round, all holdouts backed Mr. Jordan for speaker, just moments after he gave a speech backing Mr. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy got 203 votes, to 19 for Mr. Jordan. In the third round, one Republican, Byron Donalds of Florida, switched to Mr. Jordan from Mr. McCarthy to cheers from the holdouts, but no one followed.

McCarthy critics cast the vote as an important moment for the party.

"The reality is Rep. Kevin McCarthy doesn't have the votes," Mr. Donalds tweeted.

Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York received all 212 Democratic votes in all three rounds, and party lawmakers signaled they had no interest in any deal to help Mr. McCarthy get to the majority. In a fundraising email, Mr. Jeffries said: "Kevin McCarthy's own Republicans just rejected him—proving House Republicans are fighting themselves instead of fighting for the people."

As the votes dragged on, lawmakers appeared to grow fatigued, with the children and spouses present for the first day of the new Congress mostly leaving the House floor and galleries.

The mood was lighter on the Democratic side. Rep. Tony Cárdenas (D., Calif.) tweeted a photo of Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D., Calif.) with a baby. "This baby was born on the first round of votes. He's now 4 months old," he wrote.

After hours of voting, Rep. Tom Cole (R., Okla.) made a motion to adjourn shortly before 5:30 p.m. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Mr. McCarthy has acquiesced on requested rules changes that give rank-and-file members more power, including making it easier to oust a speaker, but he refused to make other changes. GOP lawmakers who remained opposed to the Californian's bid cited ideological and personal reasons.

"Kevin McCarthy had an opportunity to be speaker of the House. He rejected it," said Rep. Scott Perry (R., Pa.), the chairman of the Freedom Caucus. Mr. Perry said Mr. McCarthy turned down proposals that could have won votes, such as accepting suggested names for committees as well as demands for specific votes, such as on a balanced budget and term limits for members of Congress. He said he also turned away a demand for votes on individual earmarks that would require two-thirds support to pass.

Rep. Ralph Norman (R., S.C.) said Mr. McCarthy hasn't done enough to stem government spending. "We're going bankrupt if we're not already," Mr. Norman said. "When asked what plan he has, he just doesn't have one."

A failure of Mr. McCarthy's bid would be unprecedented in modern history and would underscore the shaky state of the Republican majority and the raucous nature of its conservative wing, which has caused trouble for party leaders in the past decade. In 2015, then-Speaker John Boehner resigned in the face of conservative pressure.

The House speaker dictates which bills make it to the floor and is responsible for shepherding must-pass legislation, such as spending bills, that typically need bipartisan support, and negotiating with Senate leaders and the White House. Democrats continue to control the Senate.

Mr. McCarthy has served in Republican leadership since 2009 and first made a run for the speakership in 2015, which failed.

—Lindsay Wise and Katy Stech Ferek contributed to this article.

Florida Governor Assails Federal Policies

BY CAMERON MCWHIRTER AND JOHN MCCORMICK

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a potential leading Republican presidential contender in 2024, attacked what he called "faddish ideologies" and Washington's "floundering federal establishment" in remarks Tuesday at the inauguration of his second term.

Mr. DeSantis, 44 years old, said the state's law-and-order agenda and its rejection of severe restrictions at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic had motivated people from other states to move to Florida. In December, the U.S. Census Bureau declared Florida—with 22.2 million residents—to be the nation's fastest-growing state from 2021 to 2022.

"Freedom lives here," Mr. DeSantis told a cheering crowd in Tallahassee during his 16-minute speech.

"We will never surrender to the 'woke' mob," he said. "Florida is where 'woke' goes to die."

Mr. DeSantis, without mentioning President Biden and congressional Democrats by name, slammed their stewardship of the nation over the past two years. "The federal government has gone on an inflationary spending binge that has left our nation weaker and our citizens poorer, it has enacted pandemic restrictions and mandates—based more on ideology and politics than on sound science—and this has eroded freedom and stunted commerce," he said.

In the coming session of the Florida Legislature, Mr. DeSantis will have the opportunity to showcase his conservative credentials ahead of a possible White House bid.

Ron DeSantis promised more conservative steps in education, policing.

The governor has often been critical of what he calls "woke capital"—entities that are part of the environmental, social and corporate-governance movement—and has in the past alluded to passing a law allowing people to carry concealed guns without permits. He faces pressure from some advocates to further restrict abortion access in Florida, though he avoided the topic during his recent campaign after signing a 15-week abortion ban in April. He discussed no such specifics in his Tuesday remarks.

In his speech, he promised more conservative measures regarding education and policing in his second term, as well as tax relief provided by a record state budget surplus.

He made no mention Tuesday of former President Donald Trump, who has already announced his candidacy for 2024.

A recent Wall Street Journal poll of likely Republican primary voters found Mr. DeSantis favored over Mr. Trump, 52% to 38%, in a hypothetical match between just the two men.

Support for Messrs. DeSantis and Trump could look different in what will surely be a multicandidate primary field than it does in a head-to-head matchup. The former president was able to win his party's 2016 nomination in part because the large number of candidates fractured support among non-Trump alternatives.

Mr. DeSantis's easy win in November's midterm election was a standout for Republicans in an election year filled with disappointments. It fueled a surge in support for his presidential prospects from party leaders, donors and activists in the GOP's Trump-averse wing.

If he decides to run for president, Mr. DeSantis isn't expected to announce a bid until after his state's legislative session ends in early May, people familiar with the early discussions have said.

U.S. NEWS

Subway Shooter Pleads Guilty

By James Fanelli

ELIZABETH WILLIAMS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Frank James shot 10 people, and nearly two dozen more were hurt in the New York attack. No one died.

New York City subway shooting defendant Frank James pleaded guilty Tuesday in a Brooklyn federal court to terrorism and gun charges, telling a judge that he opened fire on a crowded train to cause serious bodily harm to passengers.

Mr. James, 63 years old, pleaded guilty to 11 counts, including committing a terrorist attack against a mass-transit system and discharging a firearm. He told U.S. District Judge William Kuntz that on the morning of April 12, he boarded a train in Brooklyn and later fired a pistol at passengers. While he intended to injure people, he didn't want to kill anyone, Mr. James said.

"I was fully aware of the fact that a death or deaths could occur with my discharging of the firearm," he said. Mr. James shot 10 people, and nearly two dozen more were injured in the attack. No one was killed.

Mr. James said he plans to make a statement expressing his remorse to victims at his sentencing.

Mr. James was arrested a day after the attack. Sara Winik, a federal prosecutor in the Brooklyn U.S. attorney's office, said at the plea hearing that Mr. James intended to kill passengers, and that he planned the shooting for years, purchasing items including a disguise and smoke bombs as early as 2017. He previously traveled to New York to do a test run of the attack, Ms. Winik said.

Before the attack, Mr. James drove a rental van from Philadelphia to Brooklyn, according to prosecutors. He set off a smoke bomb before firing more than 30 rounds inside a subway car, prosecutors alleged.

Mr. James fled a subway station in Brooklyn's Sunset Park neighborhood after the shooting, discarding a yellow hard hat and an orange reflective vest that he used as a disguise, prosecutors said.

In December, prosecutors filed a superseding indictment against Mr. James that included 10 counts of committing a terrorist attack on mass transit.

Prosecutors said they believe the federal sentencing guidelines would recommend nearly 32 years to more than 37 years in prison. Ms. Winik said the government would seek a stiffer sentence because the attack was premeditated.

Mia Eisner-Grynberg, an attorney for Mr. James, said she believes the sentencing guidelines for Mr. James set a range between 16½ years to more than 18 years. The judge hasn't set a sentencing date.

Two Men Charged in Attacks on Substations

By Joseph Pisani

Federal prosecutors have charged two men in the Christmas Day attacks on four power substations in Washington state that left about 15,500 in the dark.

Matthew Greenwood, 32 years old, and Jeremy Crahan, 40, were arrested Saturday and charged with conspiracy to damage energy facilities, according to the U.S. attorney for the Western District of Washington. Mr. Greenwood was also charged with possession of an unregistered firearm, according to court documents.

"The outages on Christmas left thousands in the dark and cold and put some who need power for medical devices at extreme risk," U.S. Attorney Nick Brown said in a statement Tuesday.

Mr. Greenwood told investigators that he and Mr. Crahan planned to disrupt power so they could burglarize a business, according to the criminal complaint filed Saturday in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington at Tacoma.

After the substation attacks, Mr. Crahan drilled a hole in the lock of a business and Mr. Greenwood entered to steal from a cash register, the complaint said.

The four substations were in Pierce County, Wash. Two were operated by Tacoma Power and the others were operated by Puget Sound Energy.

Prosecutors allege the two men went to the substations Christmas Day, starting just before 3 a.m. local time. They broke locks or clipped gates, the complaint said, and circuit breakers were damaged at the substations.

The men caused about $3 million in damages at the Tacoma Power substations, prosecutors said, with some repairs estimated to take up to three years.

The complaint didn't give any estimation for damages at the other facilities.

Each man is facing up to 20 years in prison for conspiracy to attack energy facilities. Mr. Greenwood is also facing up to 10 years in prison for possession of unregistered firearms. Prosecutors said an unregistered rifle and a shotgun were found in the trailer where Mr. Greenwood was arrested.

Prosecutors said they identified the men as suspects by using cellphone location data, as well as security camera images of one of the men and a pickup truck parked in front of the substations.

Efforts to reach Messrs. Greenwood and Crahan were unsuccessful. Court documents didn't list lawyers for the two men. The Federal Public Defender's office in Seattle didn't have information on the men.

U.S. WATCH

PENNSYLVANIA

Idaho Killings Suspect Agrees to Extradition

Bryan Kohberger, the man accused of killing four University of Idaho students, agreed to be extradited from Pennsylvania to Idaho, where he faces murder charges.

He signed a waiver in a Monroe County, Pa., court on Tuesday, agreeing to the extradition, court records show.

Mr. Kohberger, 28 years old, faces four counts of first-degree murder for the November deaths of Kaylee Goncalves, 21, Ethan Chapin, 20, Xana Kernodle, 20, and Madison Mogen, 21, according to police and prosecutors.

Jason LaBar, the chief public defender in Monroe County who represented Mr. Kohberger in the extradition hearing, has said Mr. Kohberger is eager to be exonerated. The court order says Mr. Kohberger has to be extradited within 10 days.

Idaho authorities haven't said what evidence links Mr. Kohberger to the crimes or what his motive might have been. Officials in Idaho and Pennsylvania have said details about the investigation can't be released until the suspect is in Idaho and presented with the probable cause affidavit.

—Suryatapa Bhattacharya

MISSOURI

State Executes Transgender Inmate

Missouri carried out the first known execution of a transgender person in the U.S. after Republican Gov. Mike Parson denied Amber McLaughlin's clemency petition.

Ms. McLaughlin was pronounced dead by lethal injection at 6:51 p.m. on Tuesday at the Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre, Mo. She was found guilty in the 2003 murder of her ex-girlfriend Beverly Guenther.

"I am sorry for what I did," said Ms. McLaughlin in her final statement. "I am a loving & caring person." In a statement released before the execution, Gov. Parson said Ms. McLaughlin's conviction and sentence had been examined multiple times under Missouri law. "McLaughlin stalked, raped, and murdered Ms. Guenther. McLaughlin is a violent criminal," Gov. Parson said.

The Death Penalty Information Center said Ms. McLaughlin was the first openly transgender person to be executed in the U.S. Ms. McLaughlin transitioned while on death row.

Her attorney, Larry Komp, petitioned Gov. Parson for clemency to consider commuting her death sentence. Ms. McLaughlin's lawyers referenced her abusive childhood and her remorse for the murder in the petition.

—Adolfo Flores

OBITUARY

Apollo 7 Astronaut Cunningham, Age 90

Walter Cunningham, the last surviving astronaut from the first successful crewed space mission in NASA's Apollo program, died Tuesday in Houston. He was 90.

NASA confirmed Mr. Cunningham's death. His family said through a spokesman that he died in a hospital "from complications of a fall."

Mr. Cunningham was one of three astronauts aboard the 1968 Apollo 7 mission, an 11-day spaceflight that beamed live television broadcasts as they orbited Earth, paving the way for the moon landing less than a year later. It was NASA's first crewed space mission since the deaths of the three Apollo 1 astronauts in a launchpad fire Jan. 27, 1967.

Mr. Cunningham, then a civilian, was on his mission with Navy Capt. Walter M. Schirra and Donn F. Eisele, an Air Force major. Mr. Cunningham was the lunar module pilot. Their spacecraft performed so well that the agency sent the next crew, Apollo 8, to orbit the moon as a prelude to the Apollo 11 moon landing in July 1969.

—Associated Press

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mayors Seek More Aid for Homeless

Two years after New Hampshire's 13 mayors sent a letter to Gov. Chris Sununu asking for help with a strategy to assist the homeless, eight wrote back Tuesday requesting that federal funds be allocated for more shelter beds and resources, with an emphasis on women and youth.

They said the state's systems of care for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness aren't meeting the needs of communities. The governor's office said in 2022 the state made several unprecedented investments in affordable and emergency housing, and shelters, and that it has provided nearly 350 additional shelter beds statewide.

—Associated Press

FROM PAGE ONE

Oil Giants Focus on Americas

ADRIA MALCOLM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Chevron and Exxon are pulling back from many global projects in favor of local ones. Above, rig hands work at a Chevron site in the Permian Basin in Hayhurst, Texas.

Continued from Page One

between," said Ben Cahill, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank. "It's a natural consequence of investors demanding higher returns. Companies are being more selective."

For much of their modern history, Chevron and Exxon scoured the globe for oil to add to their booked reserves, a key metric upon which investors valued them, often entering into partnerships with state-run companies in the most challenging, costly projects.

Mr. Cahill said the advent of U.S. shale eased Western oil companies' concerns about securing oil supplies, and a shareholder revolt against the industry's overspending a few years ago pushed them to shrink their footprints further.

Last year, Irving, Texas-based Exxon sold or proposed to sell assets in Chad, Cameroon, Egypt, Iraq and Nigeria, along with some legacy assets in the U.S. and Canada, making for its largest number of such sales since 2018, according to FactSet. The company had planned since 2018 to sell at least $15 billion in assets as it pared its global footprint and focused on its most-valuable assets.

The company's oil and gas production was down in 2021 by almost 18% compared with its annual peak in 2011, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence. Around that time, Exxon was pursuing scores of projects across the world and made most of its money outside the U.S. The days of managing numerous international projects are running out, said Neal Dingmann, an analyst at Truist Securities.

"You have investors leaning on you harder than they have in the past," Mr. Dingmann said. "It's going to be critical that they prune their other [noncore] businesses."

Meanwhile, Chevron's international output fell 3% last year following the expiration of concessions in Thailand and Indonesia. Last year, it vowed to exit Myanmar, citing human-rights violations. Since 2019, it has unloaded assets in Azerbaijan, Denmark, the U.K. and Brazil, among other places.

Chevron has held on to some international assets close to home. The U.S. has granted it a new license to pump oil in Venezuela again, after years of sanctions. So far, it has said it won't make new investments in the country, only maintain existing assets while it collects debt from its state-run joint venture partner. Chevron would have to contend with myriad technical issues at Venezuela's aging oil fields and take on political risk to expand there.

In 2021, Exxon's land holdings with active wells were 18% smaller than they were in 2010; Chevron's were 40% smaller, FactSet data showed. As they have cut costs, their earnings have jumped, as both hit record quarterly profit last year, and Wall Street analysts estimated they were poised for the year to collect the highest profit since at least 2008, according to FactSet.

Exxon said in December it would spend up to $25 billion each year through 2027, in line with its previously announced plans but below prepandemic levels, and it aims to boost oil and gas production by 500,000 barrels a day over that period. It also plans to trim $9 billion in costs by the end of this year, compared with 2019. Chevron said it would boost spending 25% this year to $14 billion, well below its prepandemic budget.

In December, Chevron Chief Executive Mike Wirth said this strategy would win back investors. Many generalist investors fled the energy sector after years of poor returns caused by overspending. The energy segment of the S&P 500 outperformed the broader index last year, rising about 59% in 2022, compared with the index's 19% drop for the year.

Still, most institutions continue to give oil companies a wide berth, recuperating from the sting of big losses over the past decade, said Kevin Holt, a portfolio manager at investment firm Invesco Ltd., which has about $1.44 trillion in assets under management, according to its most recent regulatory filings.

"They don't think the industry will stick to capital discipline," Mr. Holt said. "It's going to take a little more time" for investors to believe oil companies have permanently changed their spending habits.

The most significant shift away from a foreign country last year was in Russia. The Kremlin wiped out Exxon's stake there in a major oil-and-gas project it had operated since the 1990s, after Exxon tried to exit from the venture following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Establishing a foothold in Russia had been a key part of former Chief Executive Rex Tillerson's strategy. Few opportunities of that scale exist now, at least in the oil industry's traditional oil-and-gas business, said Tatiana Mitrova, research fellow at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy.

Exxon and Chevron have said they plan to expand into new businesses providing low-carbon technologies to other companies, where they could explore partnerships with countries and state-run companies that typically don't have access to those technologies, Ms. Mitrova said.

"The majors are quite well positioned to develop the new technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture and other new things that will help the industry decarbonize," she said.

WORLD NEWS

U.K. Faces a New Wave of Labor Unrest

Railway workers begin walkouts to protest public-sector pay raises not matching inflation

By Max Colchester

TOLGA AKMEN/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK
Rail passengers checked the information board at Euston Station in London on Tuesday.

LONDON—British rail workers began a strike over pay, as the U.K. government faces the biggest wave of industrial action to hit the country in decades.

The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers said 40,000 members were expected to walk out for four days this week starting Tuesday, shutting most rail services across the country. Meanwhile, train drivers from a separate union are striking at 15 rail companies on Thursday, adding to the disruption.

British unions representing public-sector workers have spent months battling the government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak over pay raises that haven't come close to matching the country's 10.7% inflation rate, which is near a 40-year high. This month, ambulance paramedics and nurses plan to strike again, when Britain's National Health Service is already severely stretched. Bus drivers and driving instructors are also planning industrial action.

So far, the government has taken a confrontational stance with unions and has resisted demands for pay increases, arguing that doing so would further stoke inflation. The government has also said it would pass new laws to limit the ability of workers to strike, but it isn't clear whether such proposals would gain parliamentary approval in the near term.

U.K. Transport Secretary Mark Harper on Tuesday said the rail unions should "get off the picket line and round the negotiating table." Mick Lynch, head of the rail and maritime union, said the government hadn't presented any fresh proposals in recent days, adding that the rolling strikes could continue until May. This week, some 80% of train services are expected to be canceled.

Britain is braced for a yearlong recession that economists expect to be deeper than any other Group of Seven nation. The U.K. is suffering from both a tight labor market and rising energy costs in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

This has exacerbated a longrunning disparity between public- and private-sector pay. According to the U.K. Office for National Statistics, private-sector pay was 6.9% higher in the three months through October than a year earlier, while government pay was up just 2.7%.

Between June and October, over 1.1 million working days were lost because of strikes, the U.K. Office for National Statistics said. That is the highest in a five-month period since early 1990.

While the strikes have yet to have a significant impact on the economy, they add to other headwinds, such as soaring energy costs, that led to a decline in gross domestic product in the three months through September, which the Bank of England said was likely the start of a prolonged recession. The Center for Economics and Business Research, a consulting firm, in December estimated that the strikes would reduce economic output by 1.7 billion British pounds, equivalent to around $2 billion, in the eight months through January, or 0.1% of GDP over that period.

The government wants unions to stick to raises awarded by independent pay panels, which were largely settled before the sharp rise in inflation, and await the judgment of those panels on new pay deals over the coming months. However, the government is contending with an increasingly combative workforce.

Israeli Far-Right Leader Visits Flashpoint Holy Site

By Aaron Boxerman

ATEF SAFADI/PRESS POOL
Itamar Ben-Gvir was sworn in as national security minister last week.

JERUSALEM—Israeli far-right leader Itamar Ben-Gvir visited Jerusalem's holiest site early Tuesday, in his first week as a minister, raising tensions with Palestinians who are concerned about the new government expanding Israeli control over the contested hilltop compound.

"No Israeli government in which I am a member will surrender to a vile group of murderers," Mr. Ben-Gvir said, after the Palestinian militant group Hamas warned it would consider his visit "a great aggression."

The site—known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Al Aqsa mosque—has long been a flashpoint for Israeli-Palestinian violence. A visit to the site by opposition leader Ariel Sharon in 2000 helped spark a wave of violence known as the Second Intifada. In 2021, clashes between Palestinian worshipers and Israeli police at the Al Aqsa mosque were a key factor in the escalation to an 11-day deadly conflict between Israel and Hamas.

For decades, a fragile status quo has largely held at the sensitive site under which only Muslims may pray. Non-Muslims, including Jews, can visit on the condition that they don't worship. In recent years, Jewish activists such as Mr. Ben-Gvir have agitated for Israel to assert more authority at the site and quiet Jewish prayer has become commonplace.

Flanked by security guards, Mr. Ben-Gvir entered the site early Tuesday morning without any prior public announcement. The visit, which passed quietly, was Mr. Ben-Gvir's first since being sworn in on Thursday as national security minister in a coalition government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hamas, which rules Gaza, slammed Mr. Ben-Gvir's visit as a "crime" and "brazen aggression," but refrained from directly threatening a violent response.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in parts of the West Bank, condemned Mr. Ben-Gvir's visit as an "unprecedented provocation and dangerous threat."

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, whose Waqf religious authority administers the holy site, also denounced the visit.

In response to the incident, the U.S. Embassy in Israel said Ambassador Tom Nides "has been very clear in conversations with the Israeli government on the issue of preserving the status quo in Jerusalem's holy sites. Actions that prevent that are unacceptable."

Israel's new government is made up mostly of conservatives and nationalists, including Mr. Ben-Gvir's Jewish Power party.

In his new role as national security minister, the ultranationalist leader could seek to order Israel's police to cease enforcing the status quo, which he says discriminates against Jews.

Mr. Ben-Gvir, convicted in 2007 of racist incitement and supporting a terror group, is one of Mr. Netanyahu's most controversial partners.

He was a longtime admirer of extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, who called for expelling Arabs from Israel, although Mr. Ben-Gvir says he no longer agrees with all of Mr. Kahane's views.

EU to Set Controls On Trips From China

By Laurence Norman

European Union member states set the stage for coordinated controls on passengers arriving from China, including possible mandatory pre-travel testing, as the bloc works to ensure China's sudden reversal of its zero-Covid policy doesn't undermine the region's efforts to put the pandemic behind it.

The EU decision, which looks likely to be agreed on Wednesday, would see member states follow the decision of U.S. authorities in tightening controls on arrivals from China ahead of the lifting of travel controls by Beijing in the coming days. Several EU member states including France, Spain and Italy have announced independent controls on arrivals from China.

China said last month that it would remove nearly all remaining quarantine and Covid-testing restrictions for inbound travelers to the country, which has sparked a surge in demand for airplane tickets in and out of China.

That follows a decision in December to reverse many of the country's three-year-old zero-Covid policies.

On Tuesday, a group of health experts from member states met with Brussels authorities for the second week running to discuss the situation. An EU crisis management group will meet Wednesday to decide on coordinated measures, although it will be ultimately up to member states which measures they impose.

The health spokesman for the European Commission, the EU's executive body, said Tuesday evening after the meeting that Brussels would recommend on Wednesday approving measures including mask wearing on flights from China, increased monitoring of wastewater for Covid on incoming flights, genomic surveillance at airports to check for new Covid variants and increased follow-up with travelers.

The spokesman said a recommendation to impose pre-testing on people intending to travel from China also would be discussed, with the majority of countries favoring it.

The U.S. last week decided to require proof of a negative Covid-19 test for people traveling from China, Hong Kong and Macau.

Beijing has criticized what it called unacceptable and politically motivated Covid-related travel restrictions on its citizens and warned of countermeasures.

China's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that precautionary measures targeting travelers from China lacked a scientific basis, calling them excessive and politically motivated.

"We firmly oppose the practice of using the pandemic and manipulating prevention measures to achieve political goals," said Mao Ning, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.

ALBERTO ORTEGA/CONTACTO/ZUMA PRESS

A passenger arrived Tuesday at Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport on a flight from China.

For much of the past three years, China has imposed stringent Covid testing and quarantine requirements on foreign nationals traveling to the country, part of a larger bundle of measures to prevent Covid infections from being imported from abroad.

Those policies were largely reversed in December and fresh data on surging infections in the country have largely dried up. The World Health Organization said it asked Chinese scientists to offer more details on the country's Covid situation at a closed-door meeting on Tuesday.

On Tuesday, EU officials said there was no reason for undue concern, with the continent's early warning and response measures still in place, no evidence as yet of new virus types and high immunity and vaccination levels on the continent, which was an epicenter of the crisis in the first year of the pandemic.

The commission also on Tuesday confirmed its Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides was in touch with Beijing authorities to offer China free vaccines from its stock. Officials said they hadn't received an official response.

The Chinese mission in Brussels had no comment on the offer of vaccines.

More than two million people have died in Europe from Covid-19.

MIKHAIL PALINCHAK/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Volunteers clear debris in Kyiv. Ukraine's growing success in downing Iranian-made Shahed drones might signal a shift in the war.

West Helps Ukraine Repel Drone Attacks

By Ian Lovett

Ukraine is improving its ability to intercept the Iranian-made Shahed drones that Russia has relied on to damage Ukrainian infrastructure, with Western-supplied air-defense systems increasingly helping Kyiv repel the attacks.

In the first days of 2023, Russia has relied on Iranian-made Shahed drones to destroy and degrade Ukrainian infrastructure. All 39 drones that Russians launched into the country Sunday night and Monday were shot down, according to the Ukrainian air force. Kyiv, the target of most of the drones, had no scheduled blackouts Tuesday morning, after its electric grid avoided more damage.

In total, all 84 drones launched at Ukraine since the start of the year have been shot down, said an air force spokesman; more than 500 drones have been shot down since September.

"We have information that Russia is planning a prolonged attack with 'Shaheds,'" Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday. "Its bet may be on exhaustion. On exhaustion of our people, our air defense, our energy sector. But we must ensure...that this goal of terrorists fails."

Ukraine's growing success in downing Shahed drones may signal a shift in the war.

Air-defense systems helped down more than 500 drones since September.

For Moscow, the drones are a cheaper option than cruise missiles, which can cost millions of dollars each. Last fall, the Kremlin began launching them in swarms, making it difficult to shoot them all down. Their smaller size and lower flight altitude also allowed them to evade Ukrainian defenses.

In recent months, however, Ukraine has received upgraded air defenses from the U.S. and several other Western countries. Ukrainian officials said they used NASAMS, a medium-to-long-range surface-to-air missile-defense system that the U.S. sent to Ukraine in November, to down drones this week.

In attacking Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, Western analysts say, Moscow's goal is to exhaust the civilian population—and Ukraine's Western allies—and force Mr. Zelensky to give up the territory that Russia holds. But a poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology found that Ukrainians remain broadly opposed to any territorial concessions—and their attitudes are largely unchanged since the assault on the country's electric grid began in October.

Some 85% of Ukrainians polled in December opposed any ceding of territory, compared with 87% in September and 82% in May.

Mr. Zelensky spoke Tuesday with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who pledged to keep supplying Ukraine with equipment. The U.K. has sent more than 1,000 air-defense missiles to Kyiv.

Elsewhere, fierce fighting continued around Bakhmut, the eastern Ukrainian city that Moscow has been pushing to seize for months, with heavy casualties on both sides.

The British Defense Ministry said Tuesday that Wagner, the paramilitary group leading the Russian assault in the area, increased the frequency of its infantry attack on the city in mid-December, but Ukraine sent reinforcements during the past 10 days, and a major Russian breakthrough in the coming weeks is unlikely.

Heavy Russian shelling also continued in the southern Kherson region. A car market, utility company and apartment buildings were hit Tuesday in Kherson city, which Ukraine retook in November. Two people were killed and nine injured across the region, the governor said.

Analysts Cite Russian Missteps

By Stephen Fidler And Daniel Michaels

Russian forces are repeating basic errors that are compromising the security and safety of their own soldiers in occupied Ukraine, say military analysts.

In the latest example that suggests poor Russian operational security, Ukrainian forces destroyed a facility used as a base for mobilized troops in Makiivka in eastern Ukraine.

Rybar, a Telegram channel with links to the Russian military, said Tuesday that "more than 100 Russian servicemen were killed" in the attack.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry, which didn't say it was responsible for the assault, said 400 troops were killed and 300 hurt after four U.S.-supplied Himars rockets carrying high-explosive warheads hit a vocational facility housing hundreds of newly mobilized troops. Whichever figure is closer to the actual toll, the incident appears to be one of the deadliest attacks suffered by Russian forces since the Ukraine war began on Feb. 24.

Reports from Russian military bloggers and other pro-Russian sources suggest several significant failings, not the least in allowing a large concentration of troops to gather within the range of precise Ukrainian artillery.

The troops appeared to be billeted next to a store of ammunition, which caused large secondary explosions that flattened the facility, with other easily observable military equipment nearby. Some open-source intelligence reports also suggested that the soldiers weren't stopped from using cellphones, potentially allowing Ukrainian forces to identify a concentration of troops.

Russia's apparent failure to adapt its approach to billeting soldiers follows similar trends earlier in the war. In the spring, Russian forces suffered several defeats in attempting to cross rivers with inadequate preparation and poor operational discipline. During the summer, Ukrainian troops used newly deployed Himars to destroy many Russian ammunition depots and command centers in occupied Ukrainian territory. Because of Russia's reliance on rail transportation, most of its logistical centers were based near major rail junctions, with little effort made to hide them.

When the Himars's effectiveness became clear, Russia made efforts to disperse ammunition and move it farther out of range, but the shift doesn't seem to have influenced other operations. "Aside from moving ammunition back, I'm not seeing them being an adaptive force able to learn and adjust," said retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, a former commander of U.S. Army forces in Europe.

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WORLD WATCH

GERMANY

LNG Facility Accepts First Full U.S. Cargo

Germany's newly constructed liquefied-natural-gas terminal received its first full cargo from the U.S. on Tuesday, as Berlin races to shore up its supply after the end of its decadeslong energy relationship with Russia.

The shipment arrived in Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea, a facility that was built in less than a year to help Germany avert an energy shortage.

The U.S. gas supplier, Venture Global Calcasieu Pass LLC, a subsidiary of Venture Global LNG, is likewise rapidly expanding its facilities to meet Europe's rising demand. Venture Global LNG last year secured $13.2 billion in financing and gave final approval for a project near New Orleans—the first new U.S. plant to receive a green light in three years.

Russia, which supplied more than half of Germany's gas imports before the war in Ukraine, halted deliveries last year in what European officials have called an economic retaliation for Berlin's support for Kyiv. With German industry and households highly reliant on the fuel, the country raced to secure gas from other exporters and build its own facilities to import LNG.

—Georgi Kantchev

VATICAN

Mourners Bid Quiet Farewell to Benedict

The body of Pope Benedict XVI lay before the main altar of St. Peter's Basilica on Monday, his head resting on a pair of velvet cushions, with rosary beads entwined through his folded hands. A handful of mourners with special permission from the Vatican sat or knelt in prayer on either side of the body.

The Catholic Church is observing a period of muted mourning for Pope Benedict XVI, who died Saturday after a decade in retirement.

Thousands have filed past his body lying in state in St. Peter's Basilica, though nothing like the enormous lines that formed for St. John Paul II in 2005. Benedict's funeral will be on Thursday,.

—Francis X. Rocca

BRAZIL

Pelé Buried in City He Made Famous

Brazil said a final farewell to Pelé on Tuesday, burying the legend who unified the bitterly divided country.

Newly inaugurated President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva paid his respects at Vila Belmiro, the stadium where Pelé played for most of his career. Pelé was laid to rest in Santos, the city where he grew up and became famous, and which became a global capital of his sport.

Mass was held at the Vila Belmiro stadium before the black casket was driven through the streets of Santos in a firetruck.

It was taken into the cemetery as bands played the Santos team's official song, and a Catholic hymn. Before the golden-wrapped casket arrived, attendees sang samba songs that Pelé had liked.

In the 1960s and '70s, Pelé was perhaps the world's most famous athlete. He met presidents and queens, and in Nigeria a civil war was put on hold to watch him play. he first time.

Pelé led Brazil to World Cup titles in 1958, 1962 and 1970

—Associated Press

The Fight Over Saudi Oil Riches

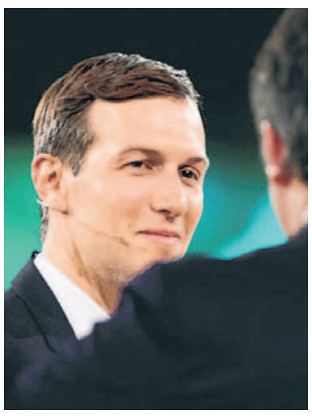
Continued from Page One
these people said.

The $35 billion deployed by the PIF quickly turned into $49 billion when markets rallied, Mr. Rumayyan said on the podcast.

But the episode escalated a power struggle over the future of the world's seventh-largest sovereign-wealth fund, with $600 billion under management, according to interviews with current and former employees, consultants and other people familiar with the fund.

On one side is 37-year-old Prince Mohammed, the fund's chairman since 2015, who dabbled in stock picking as a youth and has led the PIF into investing in videogame makers, luxury-car manufacturers and an English soccer team. On the other is a growing group of professional financiers who are trying to put guardrails around how the kingdom's oil wealth is spent.

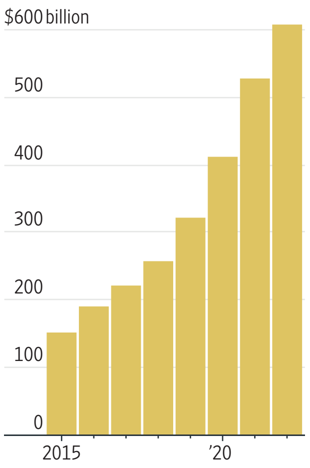
The outcome will help shape the future of Saudi Arabia's economy. The kingdom, flush with cash from higher oil prices, is aiming to grow the PIF into a $2 trillion behemoth by 2030.



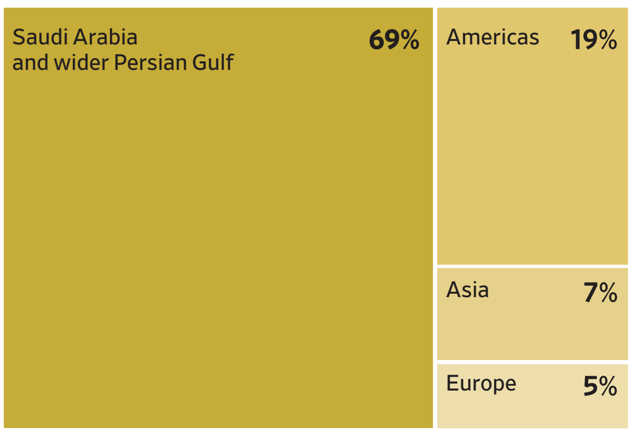
FROM TOP: TASNEEM ALSULTAN/BLOOMBERG; FAYEZ NURELDINE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Public Investment Fund booth at Saudi Arabia's Future Investment Initiative in October, top. Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of former President Donald Trump snared a $2 billion investment from the fund, despite objections.

Public Investment Fund's assets under management



The fund's assets under management by region, as of year-end 2021



Note: The data for assets under management in 2022 are as of June, while the previous years' data are as of December.
Sources: Public Investment Fund Program 2021–2025 (assets under management in 2016 and 2017); PIF's offering circular (assets under management in 2015, 2018–2022 and assets under management by region in 2021)

Compliance push

The PIF has built up a buffer of cash and liquid securities—rainy-day funds for investing opportunistically—and hired more compliance and finance professionals, including a former finance-ministry official who oversaw the government's transition into one of the biggest debt issuers among emerging markets.

The kingdom's financiers are trying to maintain fiscal discipline even during an oil boom, with crude prices near $100 a barrel for much of last year and economic growth estimated by the International Monetary Fund of more than 7.6%—making the country one of the best economic performers globally in 2022.

Three months ago, the fund signaled that its freewheeling days were behind it when it opened its finances publicly for the first time as part of a $3 billion bond sale. In a statement, the PIF said it had "world-class governance."

"As a portfolio expands, inevitably, it has to professionalize," said Robert Mogielnicki, resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute think tank in Washington, D.C., adding that governance at the PIF seems to have improved. Even so, he said, there are few, "if any, institutional safeguards to absolutely prevent" top-down interference with established investment procedures.

The Saudi Royal Court didn't respond to requests for comment.

In a statement via lawyers, the PIF said it rejected "any suggestion that the decision-making or conduct of the board of PIF is unduly influenced (or influenced in any way contrary to the principles of good governance) by the crown prince." The fund said it denied that "investments (wrongly) attributed…as being at the behest of the crown prince have underperformed." It didn't respond to questions about specific investments.

Under Prince Mohammed's stewardship, the PIF has said it made a 12% annual return from September 2017, when it launched a new strategy to increase returns and drive the kingdom's economic diversification, up to the end of 2021. That is higher than the 9% average among sovereign-wealth funds tracked by New York-based data firm Global SWF, and compares with a 3% annual return the PIF disclosed from 2014 through 2016.

By its count, the fund has created more than 500,000 jobs and established 66 new companies to develop new industries in an economy long largely dependent on oil.

Priority sectors

The PIF said all its investments are consistent with its published strategies, including investing in 13 priority sectors of the Saudi economy. Deals are reviewed by both a board investment committee and a management investment committee, according to the fund's prospectus, and the PIF board has final authority over investment decisions.

Consultants and people who work with the PIF said it is like any company or investment fund around the world that is dominated by a big personality or deal maker, and much of what the prince—or the governor, Mr. Rumayyan—recommends is based on a broader economic rationale.

A case in point: Prince Mohammed's interest in electric vehicles is well-known. In 2018, the PIF began putting money into EV startup Lucid Group Inc., investing $3.8 billion in all. Its 60% stake is now worth roughly $7 billion. Meanwhile, the California-based car maker has broken ground on a factory in the kingdom slated to create jobs for the Saudis, a win for the dual strategy of investing for financial return while developing the domestic economy.

Other times, the crown prince's interests have led the PIF into investments like Noon.com, an e-commerce website that planned to take on Amazon.com Inc. In the past two years, Noon suffered losses of $520 million, according to the PIF prospectus. The value of PIF's current stake or whether it has invested further couldn't be determined. Noon declined to comment.

In 2018, after Prince Mohammed, an avid gamer, tried an augmented-reality product from a buzzy startup called Magic Leap, the PIF invested $400 million. At the time, the investment valued Magic Leap at more than $6 billion. By 2021, when the PIF took a majority stake, the valuation had slipped to $2 billion.

The prince's biggest bet, a $45 billion commitment in 2017 to SoftBank's Vision Fund, has lagged behind the overall market and hasn't produced the flurry of foreign investment by technology companies into the kingdom envisioned by PIF leadership.

The PIF invests domestically in dozens of new companies and real-estate developments such as a 75-mile long skyscraper, as well as internationally in private equity and stocks and sports initiatives such as the Newcastle Football Club and LIV Golf.

"Our results speak for themselves," the PIF said. "PIF is helping drive the transformation of the Saudi economy and generating strong financial returns and economic opportunities for the people of Saudi Arabia, our ultimate stakeholders."

Saudi officials said Prince Mohammed listens to his advisers and sometimes argues with them about how best to manage the government's finances and the PIF's investments. But he has the final word in both arenas, they said.

> 'We spend many hours arguing, including with His Royal Highness.'

"He's very passionate about the economy, and sometimes we spend many hours arguing, including with His Royal Highness," said Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan, a PIF board member who has championed a series of moves to shape how PIF money is spent.

In an interview, Mr. Jadaan called the 2020 central-bank transaction an extraordinary one-off episode.

The PIF faced outside pressure to put in place guardrails shortly after Prince Mohammed revamped the fund's strategy in 2017 to accelerate its growth. In early 2018, IMF officials visited Saudi Arabia on a fact-finding mission. The IMF pressed Saudi officials to be transparent about investments and debts at its state-owned companies, according to people familiar with the discussion.

A meeting at the PIF turned fractious and devolved into shouting when PIF's Saudi executives took issue with some of the IMF's questions, these people said. That relationship later improved, they added, but the PIF never shared all the information the IMF requested.

The IMF said it has very good relations with the Saudi authorities and discussions have always been open and constructive. "Great strides have been made in improving transparency," it added.

In the spring of 2018, Prince Mohammed asked Mr. Rumayyan to buy a stake in Tesla, spending $2 billion on shares available on the public markets, people familiar with the request said.

Musk meeting

Later that year, Mr. Rumayyan met with Tesla Chief Executive Elon Musk for a discussion about further investment, a meeting that became the precursor to a set of tweets Mr. Musk posted saying he was taking the company private and had "funding secured." The Securities and Exchange Commission later sued Mr. Musk for allegedly fraudulent statements and he settled the case, while denying wrongdoing.

The debacle unsettled PIF executives, according to people aware of their thinking. When Tesla's share price recovered to above the fund's entry, Mr. Jadaan asked PIF executives to sell the shares, according to people familiar with the directive.

Tesla's shares later rocketed, and the PIF's stake in the company would now be worth roughly $11 billion if it had simply held on to the original investment.

Describing the PIF's early deficiencies, Mr. Rumayyan said on the October podcast: "We didn't have the sufficient technical know-how. We didn't have the right number of people. We didn't have processes. We didn't have systems."

There were times the fund's employees and board tempered the crown prince's impulses. Despite Prince Mohammed's close relationship with SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son, the PIF's finance experts dissuaded the prince from investing in SoftBank's second Vision Fund vehicle, launched in 2019, pointing to bad bets the Vision Fund made the first time around, like WeWork, according to people familiar with the process.

Mecca pitch

In August 2019, Mr. Son also pitched to the PIF a sensitive idea at the heart of Saudi Arabia's role as the guardian of Islam's holiest sites. The proposal aimed to make more money from the pilgrims in the holy city of Mecca and double the number of annual visitors to 20 million by 2030, according to a pitch deck viewed by The Wall Street Journal.

Prince Mohammed was intrigued by the Mecca idea. But the proposal never made it past the PIF's investment committees, according to people familiar with the pitch, with some Saudi officials saying it would amount to commercializing and overdeveloping Islam's most sacred place. SoftBank declined to comment.

The PIF said the fund "has a robust investment process and governance framework, commensurate with other leading asset managers around the world."

Still, the prince's role remains something of a wild card.

In 2021, when former President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner sought billions of dollars from the PIF for a Middle East-focused investment fund, the PIF's investment committee initially balked, people familiar with the matter said, despite Mr. Kushner's personal relationship with Prince Mohammed.

Mr. Kushner's fund, named Affinity, aims to link Persian Gulf money with Israeli businesses, especially its technology sector. But Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with Israel, and the PIF has ample exposure to tech.

Some PIF committee members argued that Mr. Kushner didn't have a long track record in this sort of business, the people familiar with the matter said. Mr. Kushner, who declined to comment via a spokesman, is known for real-estate investments in the New York City area. In Affinity's pitch to prospective investors in Saudi Arabia, it noted Mr. Kushner's involvement in key Trump administration diplomatic initiatives.

The crown prince won that argument. The PIF made the deal, people familiar with that investment said, sending Mr. Kushner $2 billion.

A Circus Bought a Town

Continued from Page One
Ross Mollison, Spiegelworld's Australian founder, isn't concerned about his lack of town-managing experience, and plans to make Nipton the base of the company's "global operations." He has a grand vision for Nipton, though he concedes he hasn't worked out all the details. It includes theater performances, an art park and perhaps a restaurant built high in the town's grove of Eucalyptus trees.

Nipton's lengthy for-sale status is reminiscent of the television town "Schitt's Creek," whose fictional owners long tried to unload it. Not even the creators of that award-winning comedy series invented an outcome this unexpected.

"Imagine it's 'Schitt's Creek' but owned by a circus," says Mr. Mollison.

Located about an hour from Las Vegas, Nipton has about 25 residents, give or take, many of whom live in an RV park. It features a small hotel named "Hotel California," an old schoolhouse, a trading post and several large art sculptures trucked in from Burning Man, the famous Nevada festival.

There is nothing around for miles, and the temperature can soar well past 100 degrees come summer. Multiple times a day, the Union Pacific Railroad train rumbles across the property.

Nipton had been owned since the 1980s by Jerry Freeman and Roxanne Lang, a California couple who bought it on a whim for about $200,000. (Actually it was Mr. Freeman who bought it on a whim, and surprised his wife.)

When her husband died in 2016, Ms. Lang embarked on a multiyear struggle to sell Nipton. A cannabis company bought the town, with financing from Ms. Lang, and hoped to turn it into an event space for Instagram influencers to showcase marijuana products. Eventually the company stopped making payments, and Ms. Lang says she had to foreclose. She put the town back on the market in early 2021 for $2.75 million and drew interest from a grab bag of potential buyers. There were groups who seemed to be operating religious cults, cryptocurrency investors, a crew that wanted to run a party train from Las Vegas, and "some people from Brazil, one of whom was a dentist," says Ms. Lang.

ANGELA OWENS/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

A welcome sign greets visitors to Nipton, Calif., on the edge of the Mojave Desert.

That is perhaps why, when a circus made an overture, she didn't find the offer strange.

Mr. Mollison, known as Spiegelworld's "impresario extraordinaire," says he grew attached to Nipton on a visit from Vegas. "The sense of remoteness—it reminds me of being in Australia," he says.

Spiegelworld aims to turn Nipton into a "circus village," where artists and performers can work, but the particulars aren't yet clear. "I don't want to build a resort," Mr. Mollison says. "This is a very high-end circus. At the same time it's filled with character and personality."

Mr. Mollison and his team have a lot of ideas, among them: creating a giant sculpture park, such as New York's Storm King Art Center; opening a skydiving club; bringing in live magicians and Hula-Hoop performances ("but nothing cheesy, I don't like cheesy," Mr. Mollison says); making underground accommodations in a bunker area beneath Nipton; and building a performance venue in a grove of trees (though "I'm probably not going to import koalas or anything," Mr. Mollison says).

"There could be an element of 'permanent Burning Man' " about Nipton, he adds.

Before anything can get built though, Spiegelworld has had to grapple with the current state of the town. It brought in as caretakers two of its prop builders already living in the desert, Alex and Frank Strebel, and their five chickens.

"It felt so quaint and community-oriented," says Ms. Strebel. "We could definitely see it needed a lot of work."

Using a tractor and their bare hands, the Strebels have spent months cleaning up what they estimate is about 250 tons of debris. They tore down a series of weathered teepees. Still, they describe the town as a living-history lesson.

Local residents have been accommodating, particularly Jim Eslinger, Nipton's unofficial mayor. Mr. Eslinger, a former long-haul truck driver, says he told Spiegelworld he is included in the purchase of the town. "I've met quite a few of the acrobats," Mr. Eslinger says. "They're awesome people and what I hear is they have some really good shows."

Former town caretaker Stephen Shearin says he departed to help run an upscale glamping area in Southern California.

"When the new guys got there, they definitely had a plan," Mr. Shearin says. "I wasn't a part of it for the long term." ("Stephen has gone on to other opportunities," Mr. Mollison, of Spiegelworld, says.)

Mr. Mollison is confident in Spiegelworld's ability to run Nipton. "We will not fail because we're relentless and we love this place," he says.

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Career advisers are preaching caution to those considering graduate school over a paycheck.

FROM TOP: BILL MCCULLOUGH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL; KENNEITH ADAMS

As Fear in the Job Market Rises, Is It Time for Grad School?

Inflation, student-loan rates complicate the calculus to leave labor market for higher degree

By Lindsay Ellis

Big layoff announcements and growing fears about the economy usually mean more applications to M.B.A. and other graduate programs. But this time, career advisers and analysts are preaching caution.

Signs of a slowdown generally spark interest in graduate studies from both recent college graduates and those in the middle of their career. What better time to pause a career and acquire new skills for when the boom times return, the logic typically goes.

But this isn't a widespread downturn, and the broader labor market remains strong. In addition, higher inflation and rising student-loan interest rates are complicating the calculus of whether it pays to leave the job market for a couple of years to notch a higher degree.

Career and education experts say there are key factors to consider before giving up a full-time salary to go back to school, such as your likely debt load and future earnings, not to mention the impact of inflation and rates on already-rising tuition.

"Think about your ability to complete the degree," said Kristin Blagg, a senior research associate at the Urban Institute's Center on Education Data and Policy. The institute estimates the median debt load among borrowers who got master's degrees nearly doubled to about $61,000 between 2000 and 2016.

A number of data tools can help prospective students estimate how much they would likely make after earning a higher degree, and how much debt enrollees typically take out. The College Scorecard, a federal database, shows this information within school profiles for degree programs ranging from a master's in social work to a master's in civil engineering, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics routinely projects which career fields are expected to grow the most and by how much.

Data tools can help prospective students estimate earnings after a higher degree.

The Wall Street Journal also created a tool that compares the debt-to-income ratio of programs nationwide as part of a 2021 series on the value of graduate degrees.

Keion Adams, who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in economics this spring, is deep in the quandary. The 21-year-old senior has applied for more than 20 jobs ahead of his May graduation from Florida State University without receiving a good offer. He wants to be a data analyst, he says, but worries his economics major isn't catching companies' eyes.

He is now considering a master's in applied economics to improve his job prospects. His biggest concern? Taking on debt. Mr. Adams's mother earned a master's degree in healthcare informatics about a decade ago. Though it helped her earn a higher salary, she is still paying off her graduate-school debt, he says.

"I'm really split down the middle," he says.

Keion Adams, a senior at Florida State, is weighing graduate school but worries about taking on debt.

Inflation, which remains near a four-decade high, is another reason to think hard about stepping out of the workforce for a full-time graduate program, says Katharine Meyer, a fellow at the Brown Center on Education Policy at the Brookings Institution. Higher prices make it more challenging to cover day-to-day costs without a full-time salary. And losing a paycheck means that students aren't just giving up current wages, but often employers' contributions to retirement plans.

Some M.B.A. programs are making plays for laid-off workers, particularly in the tech sector, where job cuts have been especially intense.

The Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University is letting tech workers who have recently lost jobs apply without submitting standardized test scores, a hurdle that can cost applicants time and money. Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management has extended an application deadline for recently laid-off employees in any industry. So has the University of California at Berkeley's Haas School of Business, along with waiving application fees.

Petia Whitmore, a former dean of graduate admissions at Babson College and founder of admissions-consulting firm My MBA Path, says many laid-off workers taking up such offers were likely already considering business school, since it takes time to research programs.

"You're thinking about how that fits into your career overall," she says. "It's not a Band-Aid for losing your job."

Plus, the job market remains far from the dire straits that marked a faltering economy in the past. While many business leaders predict more layoffs in the new year, the overall labor market remains strong and many workers who have lost jobs are finding new ones quickly. Of employees recently hired after a layoff or termination, more than half landed a new position within a month, according to a new ZipRecruiter survey. Among tech workers, nearly four in 10 did.

Beth Hendler-Grunt, the president of Next Great Step, which coaches college students and recent graduates on careers, advises to work several years before pursuing a master's degree. Some experience makes applicants more attractive to admissions offices and makes it easier for students to contribute to class discussions. She also urges those considering graduate school not to use it to put off professional networking or job searching.

"It's a really expensive procrastinating tactic," she says.

To determine whether graduate school is the path to that dream job, ask a school's admissions division to connect you with alumni, or find them on LinkedIn, she suggests. Then ask those alumni how they got their positions. Or, work backward: On LinkedIn, identify someone who went to your undergraduate school and now has a job you want, and see whether they got a postsecondary credential.

Mr. Adams, the Florida State student, plans to apply for more jobs, in addition to graduate programs, early in 2023. He is spending about four hours each week getting certifications in Excel, Tableau and coding, as well as working on personal data projects.

If he can get a good job without graduate school, he says, he will take it.

"I want someone to take a chance on me," Mr. Adams says.

Old Movies Spawn Lust for Bootleg T's

ON TREND
JACOB GALLAGHER

It's been 48 years since "Dog Day Afternoon" hit theaters. But as of last week, you could purchase a brand-new hat reprising the film's all-caps poster, down to its memorable tagline: "Incredible But True!"

This hat is not officially licensed merch for Sidney Lumet's twisty crime drama. It is an unsanctioned homage made by And After That, a teensy McAllen, Texas, clothing company that inventively pays homage to movies and bands with shirts, T-shirts and hoodies. Warner Bros. Discovery, the merchandising rights holder of "Dog Day Afternoon," did not comment.

And After That's late December releases also included a hat based on Daft Punk's 2001 track "Something About Us" with the band's logo and a T-shirt with the title and cast of 2000's "Dancer in the Dark" splayed across it.

Let's call these what they are: bootlegs. (Edgar Gonzelaz, the founder of And After That also uses the term "re-creations.") But they are a bit savvier, a bit more artful, than a standard sidewalk-hawked knockoff.

"I'm not someone that thinks I'm creating something new," said Mr. Gonzelaz, 27, who started the brand after being furloughed from his warehouse job during the pandemic. "I'm just showing you what I love and hoping that you love it, too."

Legality is a concern. Douglas Hand, a lawyer at Hand Baldachin & Associates in New York, noted that if consumers are confused by the origin of this apparel (as in, if they believe it's authentic, licensed merchandise) there could be a case to sue.

Yet, because movie productions are a "very unorganized ownership structure," with many different producers, creatives and studio executives involved, "it makes it very difficult for whoever those owners are to actually police this," said Mr. Hand. Further, for older films the production companies are often defunct and people involved are deceased.

Brainier bootlegs of the AAT variety have surged in the past year. Slaughter Bootlegs makes madcap, text-dense T-shirts riffing on everything from "The X-Files" to "Animal House." The cinema-loving Instagram account Director Fits has sold T-shirts in homage to David Cronenberg's unsettling "Videodrome" and Brian De Palma's psychodrama "Body Double." T-shirt maker Mourning Glory has made a Cranberries shirt riffing on the band's 1993 "Linger."

Recent cultural properties seem just as ripe for re-creation as classics. Deathflip Designs and From the Void have run off bootleg shirts for David Fincher's "The Social Network," and Wes Anderson's twee oeuvre, respectively. Studios for the above films and television properties either didn't provide comment on unauthorized merchandise or didn't respond to a request for comment. Representatives for Daft Punk and the Cranberries didn't respond to a request for comment.

A T-shirt from Director Fits commemorates the 1984 drama 'Body Double.'

DIRECTOR FITS

So far, Mr. Gonzelaz said no one has slapped him with a cease and desist. If they did he'd take it down.

There was a time when wearing a knockoff was considered déclassé. But, in recent years, a reappraisal has occurred: in some cases bootlegs are seen as cooler than originals. Credit Gucci partnering with Harlem's original knockoff king Dapper Dan, or Virgil Abloh's design ethos of taking an original object and minutely tweaking it to make something entirely new.

Also driving this re-creation rush? An exhaustion with the vintage market, where some coveted Ts can cost $250-$350, pricing out casual fans.

A re-creation, said Connor Gunst, 28, a retail employee in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is "more attainable" because they're around $40 instead of the $300 for the vintage "American Psycho" shirt he was looking at. The lower individual price has allowed him to buy several And After That T-shirts for properties like "Raging Bull" and the Cannes Film Festival.

Many bootleggers are running off shirts and hats from entities that also didn't have them to begin with.

"They find movies and shows that don't really have their own merch or … it's impossible to find," said Matt Grippi, 33, who works in digital marketing for film and TV in Los Angeles. "It kind of feels a little bit like a secret club," added Mr. Grippi, who has bought so much movie merch, his closet looks like it was brought to you by Martin Scorsese.

Indeed, there weren't "Videodrome" shirts or "Dog Day Afternoon" hats released when those movies came out, so to create something novel around a beloved movie, neo-knockoffers often look deeper for inspiration—to favored scenes, or niche marketing ephemera. Hagop Kourounian, 25, the man behind Director Fits, said his "Body Double" shirt was based on a booklet the studio sent to theaters with instructions on how to advertise the film.

The esoteric nature of these sly reissues is key. For Mr. Grippi, wearing a hat based on, say, David Lynch's cerebral classic "Twin Peaks" is preferable to wearing a hat from "whatever the most popular thing is."

A bootleg shirt, "starts a conversation and gets your chance to talk about something that you really love and are interested in," said Sean Beauford, 35, who works in the art world in Pittsburgh. Mr. Beauford, who owns And After That T-shirts for movies including "Phantom Thread" and "Punch-Drunk Love," noted that for people in his generation, wearing a shirt from an older movie is a way of experiencing the fandom in real time. He mostly missed the criticism and awards-show chatter when "Punch-Drunk Love" was in theaters 20 years ago, but by wearing the shirt, "it actually kind of brings the nostalgia to life."

CARRY ON
DAWN GILBERTSON

Road Warriors Dread Expense-Report Wrath

Staying on top of receipts, filing quickly through apps helps—to a degree

ILLUSTRATION BY JAN FEINDT

You can have your fitness goals and Dry January. My New Year's resolution is to make it through 2023 without a nastygram from the nice folks in expense accounting.

I'm no business-travel scofflaw. But I get plenty of automated emails not-too-subtly nudging me to do my expenses already. I've had more than a few expense reports returned for missing receipts or other missing details. Adjusting to new rules in a new job that has me crisscrossing the country more than ever is part of the reason. Mostly, though, I—and millions of others—need to do a better job of corralling receipts and filing reports as soon as possible after a trip so they don't pile up.

Finance executives cited delays in expense-report submission as a top challenge for their companies in a 2022 survey by travel expense management company TripActions. For employees, tardy or sloppy expense reports run the risk of reprimands or worse from the bosses CC'd on those your-report-is-overdue emails. Delays can also hurt your personal finances if you don't have a corporate card and potentially harm your credit score if you do have a corporate card and are late with payments.

Expense-report anarchy isn't a unique problem, especially as business travel resumes. It's a chore few employees relish, especially given more pressing work priorities. Who hasn't tried to decipher that barely legible scrawl of the handwritten taxi receipt, searched desperately for that itemized bill from the pricey dinner with clients or tracked down a hotel receipt the chain swore they would email?

Vivianna Winterbottom, customer success manager for a financial services software company, says she spent part of her time off last week filing three expense reports from recent work trips. "Real" work took precedence during her last week in the office, she says.

Ms. Winterbottom, who lives in Atlanta, also approves expenses. She says she can't believe how some of her co-workers get the chore done before they've even gotten home from a trip they took together.

"I'm landing and I'm already getting their expense reports," she says.

Ben Schein, senior vice president of data for a software company, traveled to Singapore and Australia for work for 10 days in November. He started getting reminder emails about the expenses before Christmas because more than 30 days had lapsed.

Mr. Schein, who lives outside Minneapolis, says he religiously uploads receipts to his company's travel-management app while on the road. The logjam comes when he must track down a missing receipt, especially from hotels that

> **Who hasn't tried to decipher that barely legible taxi receipt or searched desperately for that itemized bill?**

don't send promised receipts. For the international trip, he had the receipt from one Marriott in Australia but had to call the front desk of the other for a copy of his bill.

He filed the expense report—which still had 163 red flags appended by his company's expense software, mostly for overdue expenses—on Dec. 19, the night before his family left on a holiday trip to Cancún, Mexico.

Frequent flier Michelle Stephens is a longtime healthcare executive and a consultant in Rapid City, S.D., who coaches executives on topics including productivity.

Mrs. Stephens hates filing expense reports but says developing good habits around receipts and other elements is the ultimate timesaver. In extreme cases for chronic late filers, it could even save your job, she says.

Mrs. Stephens's hack: scanning or photographing receipts as soon as they arrive. Note key details about the expense in the app or any emails you send yourself about it.

She and other frequent fliers say the key to staying on top of travel expense reports is to use your company's expense reporting app as you go. She'll even take the socially awkward step of photographing a receipt during a business lunch.

"What I hate worse is digging through a pile of three trips' worth of expenses and trying to sort them and organize them and go back and even remember what you did," she says.

Haphazard receipt collection isn't a problem for Jessica Leight—getting receipts into the system is. She stores them in her wallet until it bulges, when she moves the receipts to an envelope from whatever hotel she's staying in.

The issue crops up when Ms. Leight, a development economist with the International Food Policy Research Institute, gets home. She travels to countries where electronic receipts are rare. She collected 15 tiny paper receipts from a recent five-day trip to Rwanda. She must tape them to full sheets of paper and scan them for uploading to the report.

"That usually breaks my scanner," says Ms. Leight, who lives in Farmington, Conn.

She was still working on the report days before Christmas.

"Doing it within a week [of the trip] is the goal for my future," Ms. Leight says.

Ms. Winterbottom in Atlanta is determined to join the ranks of speedy expense-report filers.

"For 2023, I'm telling myself now that I'm going to definitely make sure I get on that plane, I open my app and start creating the report, start populating it," she says.

Every year Alyssa Billups, who travels to events frequently in her job in influencer marketing for DirecTV, resolves to start expense reports on her flight back from a work trip. Every year it doesn't happen.

"I'm always dead," the 30-year-old New Yorker says. "I'm like, whoa, I don't even know my name right now."

At the end of the year, she had five emails about tardy expenses and was staring down the deadline for an expense report for a multi-city trip.

"I definitely want to get better, because it just makes your life easier and less cluttered at the end of the year," she says.

You and me both, Alyssa.

Four Anti-Resolutions for 2023

By Alex Janin

Millions of people spend the final days of December coming up with ambitious tasks for the new year. In 2023, resolve to take something off your plate instead.

Physical and mental health—including eating habits, self-care, exercise and weight loss—are among the most common focuses for resolutions. But nearly two-thirds of people who set New Year's resolutions abandon them within the first month, according to research published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Part of the problem is that designating vague goals often sets us up for failure, physical- and mental-health professionals say. Consciously removing some of them from your mental to-do list can help alleviate stress and improve focus, says Boise, Idaho, social psychologist Jessica Ayers.

"By taking off one of those big, lofty goals, you're giving yourself the freedom to actually pursue the goals that are most important to you," says Dr. Ayers.

Here are four anti-resolutions that will help you enter 2023.

Stop worrying about being a night owl

If you are one of the many people whose bedtimes shifted later during the pandemic, you might be resolving to go to bed earlier. Getting more sleep is a worthy goal, but being a night owl isn't necessarily the problem, according to sleep researchers.

People have individual chronotypes, or natural tendencies for waking early or sleeping in. When it comes to sleep health, quality, quantity and consistency are the most important metrics, sleep experts say.

Stop worrying what the scale says

Many people resolve to lose weight in the new year only to end up obsessing over the number on the scale or give up altogether, doctors and dietitians say.

For those whose doctors have urged them to monitor their weight to prevent or manage chronic conditions, patients undergoing cancer treatments and certain people who are underweight, it is a good idea to keep the scale handy, according to health experts.

Otherwise, consider ditching the scale altogether, says Gregory Dodell, an endocrinologist in New York City who sees many patients for weight-related matters. Self-weighing has been associated with weight loss, but also lower levels of self-esteem and higher levels of stress, according to a meta-analysis of 23 studies published in the journal Health Psychology Review in 2016.

"Stepping on a scale without any other health markers is not very impactful," says Dr. Dodell.

He recommends giving priority to healthy behaviors, such as incorporating more movement into your day and eating enough protein, fruits and vegetables, which can improve health indicators even if they don't affect weight.

Stop thinking about collecting friends

Many resolution-setters aim to meet new people and make new friends, but when it comes to friendships, psychologists say, quality matters more than quantity.

We have a limited amount of time and energy to invest in our relationships, says Dr. Ayers, the social psychologist. Keeping a smaller circle of friends allows us to invest more time into meaningful conversations with them, she says.

"Think of deepening instead of broadening," says psychologist Marisa G. Franco.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL ZIMMER/THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, ISTOCK

Stop leaning on gyms

Planning to join a pricey fitness program this year?

Before you hit "subscribe" on a membership, ask yourself what you are hoping to gain. For many, the answer goes beyond losing weight or looking good in their jeans, says Darlene Marshall, a personal trainer and wellness coach in Valley Falls, N.Y. Getting outside, even for short periods, can provide mental and physical health benefits.

"If the question is, 'Which is going to help with my well-being: the walk in the park or 20 minutes on the StairMaster?' The walk in the park is going to have a better outcome," she says.

ARTS IN REVIEW

NETFLIX (3)

TELEVISION REVIEW | JOHN ANDERSON

The Schemes of a Sociopath on Netflix

A scene from ‘Madoff: The Monster of Wall Street,’ top; Bernie Madoff, above, and Joseph Scotto, left, who plays him in the series.

The subject of director Joe Berlinger’s captivating, penetrating, four-part “Madoff: The Monster of Wall Street” is described by one of its kinder voices as a “financial sociopath.” Later, someone just comes right out and calls him a “serial killer.” All of which may help explain our persistent obsession with the man who perpetrated the largest Ponzi scheme in U.S. history. After so many productions, dramatic and documentary, shouldn’t we be tired of Bernie Madoff? One might as well ask if we’re tired of Charles Manson, or Jack the Ripper.

It’s certainly not violence that makes the Madoff story magnetic, although the death toll does begin to resemble the post-heist body count in “Goodfellas” after Madoff’s nearly $65 billion rip-off goes belly up in 2008. Our native fascination with tragedy and skullduggery is made even more irresistible by the idea of an empathy-free human, one who could live such an enormous lie for so long, victims be damned, while presumably still sleeping at night. Those of us who can’t balance our bank accounts are a little in awe of someone who could juggle money and numbers, fictitious or otherwise, the way Madoff did, while living the lifestyle Madoff did, with so little perceptible concern or remorse: One of the novel attractions of Mr. Berlinger’s production is its use of clips from Madoff’s video depositions, which were given during victim lawsuits in 2016 and ’17. Madoff, who died in 2021, is very matter-of-fact about the crimes he committed, dispassionate, even clinical.

Among Mr. Berlinger’s accomplishments in “The Monster of Wall Street” is not making the Madoff story remotely romantic, or even a parable, while at the same time putting blood in its veins. This he does partly by having actors play the lead characters in recreations while giving them no lines; they exist in a gauzy, icy space, a kind of dream state, especially if the dream involves someone standing on a precipice. The words we hear are all from the mouths of the Madoff employees, authors, journalists and bankers, who were either bit players in the illicit enterprise, studied and wrote about it afterward or tried to derail it mid-scam—Harry Markopolos, for instance, who was a portfolio manager for Boston-based Rampart Investment Management when he was asked to devise something to compete with Madoff’s stock strategies, which seemingly never lost money. As Mr. Markopolos tried to tell his employer—and the Securities and Exchange Commission, five times over the next 10 years—Madoff’s “strategy” was nonexistent. The Markopolos conclusions, arrived at in minutes, made no impression on anyone.

The Madoff scheme “was not a complex fraud,” says forensic accountant Bruce Dubinsky. “It involved simply taking people’s money [and] telling them he was going to invest their money. And he never did.” For years no one caught on, or so it seemed. Among the major points Mr. Berlinger makes accessible and unavoidable is that the Madoff operation should have been—and very likely was—detected as a crime-in-progress years before it was dragged naked into the daylight by the 2008 financial crisis (a point at which Madoff could no longer call on his biggest investors for cash to cover his shortfall). Mr. Markopolos was the most insistent of Madoff debunkers. But when journalist Erin Arvedlund (“Too Good to Be True: The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff”) wrote about him for Barron’s in 2001, no one whom she spoke to on the trading floors of New York recalled ever having made a trade with Bernie Madoff. That some parties avoided him entirely—Goldman Sachs and Salomon Brothers among them—might have been a tipoff.

Extensive interviews and re-enactments combine to tell the notorious criminal’s story.

That Madoff is referred to as a “scapegoat” for the financial crisis of ’08 is ironic, given how deeply Mr. Berlinger digs into the ethnic angle of the Madoff scam. He even interviews the Palm Beach rabbi Leonid Feldman, who weighs in on how Madoff used his membership at the Palm Beach Country Club to target trusting fellow Jews as investors, one of the uglier aspects of the Madoff tale.

“The Monster of Wall Street” will be, to no one’s surprise, a complex series and downbeat story, but one that is told with enormous style and narrative energy. There are quite a few likably chagrined people among the cast—those who worked in the Madoff offices at the “lipstick building” on Third Avenue in Manhattan. Several who weigh in have written what amounts to the historical record on Madoff, including Jim Campbell (“Madoff Talks”) and Diana Henriques (“Wizard of Lies”). Then there’s Madoff himself: When you’re a success on Wall Street, he says in an archival clip, “Your word is your bond.” More laughably cynical words have seldom been spoken.

Madoff: The Monster of Wall Street
Wednesday, Netflix

Mr. Anderson is the Journal’s TV critic.

ART REVIEW

Unvarnished America

By Lance Esplund

Milwaukee

IN 1908, A GROUP now called The Eight opened its first major exhibition, “Eight American Painters,” at a New York gallery. The Eight, all born between 1858 and 1876, comprised Maurice Prendergast, Arthur Bowen Davies, George Luks, William Glackens, John Sloan, Ernest Lawson, Everett Shinn and Robert Henri, their de facto leader, whose seminal book “The Art Spirit” (1923) inspires artists to this day. That show, not unlike the earlier Paris exhibitions, “Salon des Refusés,” was mounted in defiance of American art academies’ conservative jury system and aesthetic outlook. An unexpected sensation, it traveled across the country and was seen by thousands.

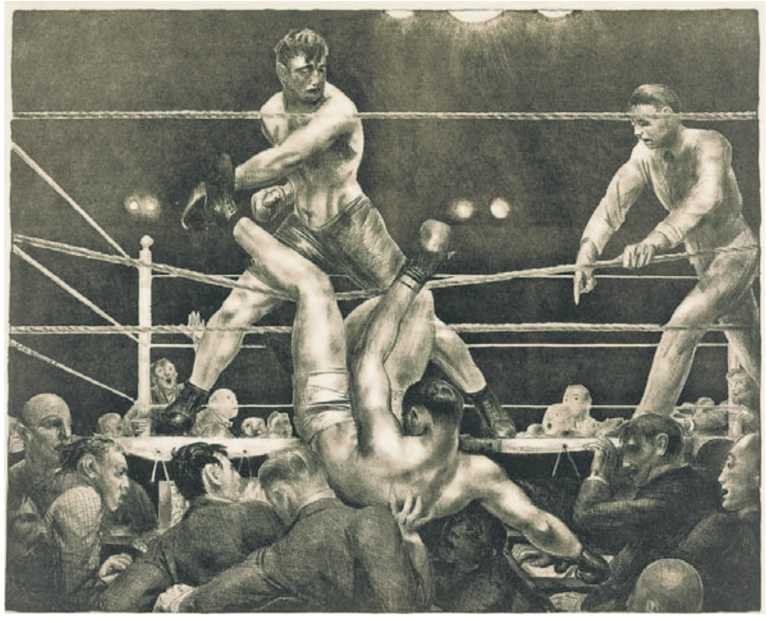
The Eight had met while studying at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts or as illustrators and cartoonists at Philadelphia newspapers and magazines. They were no-holds-barred realists whose collective, modernist temperament was rebellious, expressionistic and satirical. Motivated by the fresh, plain-spoken honesty of Walt Whitman’s “Leaves of Grass,” which defied the rules of elegant verse, and by the French Impressionists, who put life’s existential immediacy on canvas, The Eight explored the raw, dodgy underbelly of New York.

Their bleak, unvarnished depictions of everyday urban subjects—immigrants, tenements, dockworkers, factories, crowded streets, bawdy nightclubs and artists’ studios (deemed too lowbrow and inappropriate for high society’s museums)—peeled back the whitewashed veneer on American art, as they exposed socioeconomic disparities. In 1908, in Gustav Stickley’s magazine the Craftsman, The Eight—America’s first modern art movement—was celebrated for “creating a national art.” In 1916—after George Bellows had become an unofficial ninth member—the socialist publication the Masses dismissed The Eight for painting mere rubbish: “pictures of ashcans and girls hitching up their skirts on Horatio Street.” Hence, the Ashcan School.

Both descriptions bear themselves out in “The Ashcan School and The Eight: ‘Creating a National Art,’” a seedy, raucous, engaging exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Curated by Brandon Ruud, MAM’s former Abert Family Curator of American Art—and drawn entirely from MAM’s extensive Ashcan collection—it comprises about 40 paintings and roughly 80 prints, drawings and pastels by The Eight and associated artists.

Installed in a maze of small rooms, “The Ashcan School” is generally dark in lighting, color and subject. Gallery walls are mostly earthen-hued. And nighttime pictures—of boxing rings and prayer meetings, by Bellows; of Isadora Duncan dancing, by Sloan; of a “Boudoir” (c. 1910), “Nightclub Scene” (1934) and “Cabaret Singer in Red” (1951), by Shinn—all glow like spotlighted performers on shadowy stages. Sensitive works on paper may be responsible for the paucity of light; but entering this murky exhibition, after walking through MAM’s Santiago Calatrava-designed architectural addition—a soaring, white, sun-drenched modernist cathedral—is like descending into a basement speakeasy.

Initially, I was distracted by the show’s dim atmosphere and the influence of Europeans on these Americans. Portraits by Henri and Sloan seemed derivative of those by Frans Hals and Gustave Courbet. Two life-size standing portraits, “The Art Student (Miss Josephine Nivison)” and “El Matador” (both 1906), emphasized that Henri was no Diego Velázquez. Illustrations and paintings by Luks, Glackens and Sloan made me long for Honoré Daumier and Édouard Manet. And Davies’s “Rhythms” (c. 1910), a large, striking frieze of frolicking nude women in a landscape, prompted me to reminisce about my affection for the Neoclassicism of Pierre Puvis de Chavannes.



George Bellows’s lithograph ‘Dempsey and Firpo’ (1923-24)

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

Then my eyes adjusted—to the exhibition’s light and artists. I started over in this show, which, organized thematically, can be successfully experienced from opposite ends. I saw these painters for what they were: talented American pioneers. Sloan’s gorgeous desert landscapes and seascapes bridge the Frenchman Paul Cézanne and the American John Marin. Luks’s “Bleeker and Carmine Streets, New York” (c. 1905) and Sloan’s “Wayside Inn, Gloucester” (1918) presage the American isolation mined by Edward Hopper. And Henri’s paintings “Factories at Manayunk” (1897), “Street Corner” (1899) and “Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania” (1903) are bold, restless and beautiful: evocative, certainly, of John Constable and Courbet—but newfound, authentic and fresh, far from pastiche.

Surprising is Stuart Davis’s early representational painting “Tenement Scene” (1912). Featuring a prominent red “LAUNDRY 32” sign, it’s a harbinger of his signature abstractions with jumbled signage. Equally welcome are paintings by Prendergast, who had always been an enigma to me. His oils “Holiday in the Park” and “Picnic by the Sea” (both 1913-15)—striated, pebbly, idyllic mosaics of figures, flora and fauna—felt completely original. For the first time, his pictures didn’t remind me of paintings by Georges Seurat, Pierre Bonnard and Édouard Vuillard.

Absent, of course, is Bellows’s iconic canvas, “Dempsey and Firpo,” from 1924 (it belongs to the permanent collection of the Whitney). But a sleek, silvery, black-and-white lithograph (1923-24) of the boxing match—more tonally cohesive, muscular and light-filled—is a stunner. I finally understood its appeal, among the dark, lurid, frenetic energy of everything else in “The Ashcan School and The Eight.” This show, rough around the edges, demonstrates that the Ashcan School, made up of distinctive voices, was not a unified front. Like Whitman, each of The Eight sang a song of himself. Collectively, though sometimes off-key, they formed American modern art’s first chorus.

The Ashcan School and The Eight: “Creating a National Art”
Milwaukee Art Museum, through Feb. 19, 2023

Mr. Esplund, the author of “The Art of Looking: How to Read Modern and Contemporary Art” (Basic Books), writes about art for the Journal.

SPORTS

JASON GAY

Football Can Wait for Damar Hamlin

A chilling collapse, an ambulance rushed onto the field, and an urgent reminder of the human beings under the helmets

A son, a big brother, a friend, a neighbor, a teammate.

These are the essential ways to describe Damar Hamlin, currently fighting for his life in a Cincinnati hospital. Football is a brutal game camouflaged under heavy padding and helmets with darkened visors, but it got very human Monday night, after Hamlin, a second-year safety for the Buffalo Bills, collapsed on the field early in a game at Cincinnati.

The scenes were chilling: Hamlin's teammates urgently summoning medical attention; an ambulance driven onto the field; CPR administered right then and there. Players knelt in prayer.

The Bills said early Tuesday that Hamlin, 24, suffered cardiac arrest, and his heartbeat was restored on the field. His condition remains critical.

In the hours since, an undone national audience has learned more about Hamlin, a rising young talent, but not a household name until Monday's terrible turn.

They have learned how Hamlin was a high-school football sensation in his native Pittsburgh who stayed to play at the University of Pittsburgh because he wanted to be a role model for his younger brother. How he started a charitable toy fund that has now soared past $3 million as of early Tuesday morning after donations from people who saw Monday's agonizing scene, and wanted to do something—anything—to recognize the life of the young man in distress.

Hamlin is an entrepreneur. He launched his own fashion line in college after a series of injuries in his freshman year made him think he needed a backup plan—in case a football career didn't wind up happening for him.

Football wound up happening. But Hamlin kept the fashion line, Chasing Millions, which now sells a sweatshirt stitched with the auspicious phrase: LOVE ME B4 THEY ALL DO.

Buffalo Bills cornerback Siran Neal covered his face after teammate Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field on Monday.

KAREEM ELGAZZAR/USA TODAY SPORTS

I watched a recent interview with Hamlin in which he talked about his family, how they are the priority of his life.

"My mom, my dad, my little brother, that's pretty much my whole world," he said. "I don't really do too much without my mom and dad's opinion. Whether I take it or I don't—I just want to hear it. That's how I was raised."

These are the important things right now. These are really the only things now. ESPN reported that Hamlin's mother rode in the ambulance to the hospital with her son. Football can wait.

It took some time for football to sort that out Monday night. After Hamlin's collapse, there was a perplexing delay as officials in charge sorted out what to do. There was a bizarre moment in which it appeared the game would be resumed. It felt like hubris. Social media roiled. How could they play?

Wisdom prevailed. Players—many of them clearly overcome—retreated to the locker room. Eventually the game was suspended for the night. Before the decision was announced to the public, the Bills made their intentions clear as staffers began to pack up team equipment on the visitor's sideline.

No more. Not tonight.

Football is such an enthusiastic behemoth we're not accustomed to anything stopping it. It routinely plays through serious injuries and ferocious elements. When more serious weather threatens, it packs up and finds another stadium to get it done. It rarely taps the brakes for anything.

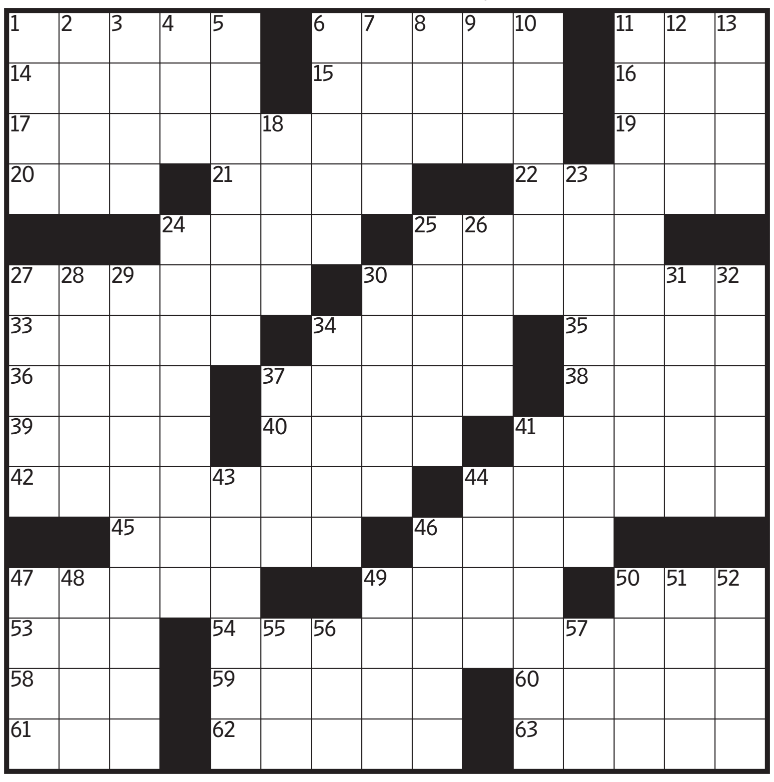
It will be hard to forget the scene of that Cincinnati stadium, thousands of fans gazing out at a suddenly barren field.

And it's another urgent reminder of the game's human side, and the sizable risks incurred. Football is a high-speed, often violent sport but all that padding and bravado creates an aura of invincibility—the NFL is nicknamed "The Shield," as if it's protected by supernatural forces. Media coverage largely focuses on the happy talk—the stars, the rivalries, who's up and down—and seldom drills down into the omnipresent pain.

We all know it, deep down: Football is far from invincible. Players are vulnerable. They look at Hamlin and see themselves. It snaps all that excitement and ritual back to reality.

A son, a big brother, a friend, a neighbor, a teammate. That's the reality. That's who Damar Hamlin is.

The WSJ Daily Crossword | Edited by Mike Shenk



GOLF HAZARDS | By David Alfred Bywaters

Across

1 Be beyond the pail?
6 Stop alternative
11 Stool site
14 480 minims
15 Stage performer
16 Always-increasing number
17 Banned V-shaped football maneuver
19 Series of theater performances
20 Prom rental
21 Some sisters
22 "There's no such thing ___ publicity"
24 Sawbucks
25 "___ Mia!"
27 Bright beams
30 Pan material
33 Revlon subsidiary
34 Chore
35 Star vocalist
36 Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games"
37 Fencing pieces
38 Canter, e.g.
39 Fit
40 Poems of praise
41 Natural dye
42 City on New Jersey's Cape May
44 Escapee from a witch, in a story
45 Makes like a happy tabby
46 Angler's collection
47 ___ diem
49 Dear, to Donatello
50 Christopher Wray's org.
53 "Thrilla in Manila" champ
54 Boat enthusiast's group, or frustrated golfer's projectile that appears three times in this puzzle
58 Nine-digit ID
59 Prey grasper
60 Be charmed by
61 Tap choice
62 Seasons simply
63 Fragrance

Down

1 Downy
2 Doozy
3 Banded stone
4 Sch. subj.
5 Poultry farm
6 Evinces boredom
7 Chilly treats
8 Takeoff guess, for short
9 Fireplace fuel
10 Experienced while asleep
11 Uncultured brutes
12 Oaxaca water
13 Tear
18 Impressive arm muscles, slangily
23 Little bits
24 Joined forces
25 Clipper components
26 Doesn't just wonder
27 Four-time Emmy winner for Outstanding Drama Series
28 Part of a defense, sometimes
29 Font for legal niceties
30 Studied with criminal intent
31 Sheepish
32 Birth-related
34 Fusses
37 Lacking means
41 Really enjoyed oneself
43 Takes by force
44 Honker
46 Comes down
47 "I Walk the Line" singer
48 Too
49 Artery blocker
50 Perch for a polar bear
51 Effective insult
52 "No doubt!"
55 Motorist's org.
56 Green around the gills
57 Pandemic-tracking org.

Previous Puzzle's Solution

A	M	A	S	S		C	F	O	S		B	O	B	S
N	A	F	T	A		O	R	C	S		U	C	L	A
G	A	L	A	X	Y	N	O	T	E		S	H	U	N
S	C	A	R		O	O	Z	E		E	M	E	R	Y
T	O	T	E		G	R	E	T	A	G	A	R	B	O
			S	P	A				I	O	N			
A	L	T	A	R		P	L	A	N	S		A	L	A
N	O	S	T	O	N	E	U	N	T	U	R	N	E	D
A	X	E		P	O	R	G	Y		R	E	D	I	D
			Z	E	E				I	F	S			
V	A	N	I	L	L	A	P	O	D		I	Z	O	D
I	D	O	L	S		M	A	I	L		D	O	R	A
S	A	I	L		H	U	R	L	Y	B	U	R	L	Y
A	P	S	O		I	C	E	E		A	A	R	O	N
S	T	E	W		E	K	E	D		A	L	O	N	E

▶ Solve this puzzle online and discuss it at **WSJ.com/Puzzles.**

The Buffalo Bills took a knee in prayer after Damar Hamlin was taken off the field by ambulance.

KAREEM ELGAZZAR/USA TODAY SPORTS

NFL Faces Fraught Decisions

BY ANDREW BEATON

THE NFL BEGAN DEALING with the fraught decisions it faces following the collapse and hospitalization of Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin—who remained in critical condition on Tuesday—by saying that Monday's suspended game against the Cincinnati Bengals "will not be resumed this week."

The nationally televised game was postponed indefinitely on Monday night after Hamlin's collapse in the first quarter. The NFL hasn't made a decision about the possible resumption of the game at a later time.

Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest, according to the Bills, who said his heartbeat was restored on the field. He appeared to receive CPR for several minutes before being taken away in an ambulance to University of Cincinnati Medical Center. The game was paused and ultimately postponed, with players in tears on the field before they returned to their locker rooms.

In a statement Tuesday afternoon, the Bills said Hamlin was still in critical condition at the hospital after spending the night in the intensive care unit.

Any move toward getting on with the season figures to be thorny. The factors, beyond Hamlin's condition, include the mental health of the players, who witnessed something league executives described as traumatic.

From the perspective of the NFL's season, the Bills-Bengals game holds enormous playoff implications, and comes just days before the final weekend of the NFL season. The league did not announce any changes to the Week 18 schedule. The next games are set for Saturday, with the playoffs beginning on Jan. 14.

The runway is short for the NFL to make a decision about how to handle the schedule and whether the Bills and Bengals may ultimately play one less game than their peers. Both the Bengals and Bills are scheduled to finish their regular seasons on Sunday, but now their penultimate game remains unfinished. The action was stopped midway through the first quarter as the Bengals held a 7-3 lead.

On the play, the 24-year-old Hamlin tackled Cincinnati wide receiver Tee Higgins and appeared to take a hit to the chest during what seemed like a relatively normal play. Afterward, Hamlin stood up before collapsing as medical personnel rushed to attend to him.

After he was taken off the field in an ambulance, it appeared for a brief moment that there may have been movement to resume the game. League executives said restarting the action never crossed their minds.

"How do you resume play after you've seen such a traumatic event?" said Troy Vincent, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations.

That's a question the NFL still needs to figure out—if the game will be played at all after Tuesday's decision that it won't take place this week.

The Bills-Bengals matchup had been one of the most hotly anticipated showdowns of the season and plays a pivotal role in this season's playoff picture.

The Bills and Bengals, along with the Kansas City Chiefs, are in the mix to win the No. 1 seed in the AFC, which earns a team a bye through the first round of the postseason. Buffalo was set to earn that prize if it won its final two games. A win against the Bills would have clinched the AFC North for Cincinnati.

If the game isn't resumed at a later date, the NFL would face another decision: how to handle the playoff seeding if the Bills and Bengals ultimately play 16 games versus other teams' 17.

The league has some natural flexibility already built into the calendar. There's an extra week between the conference championship games and the Super Bowl that could give the decision-makers wiggle room to push games back a week.

Watch a Video

Scan this code to watch a video on the Buffalo Bills' Damar Hamlin.

OPINION

The Year in Exaggeration

BUSINESS WORLD
By Holman W. Jenkins, Jr.

Exaggeration is the universal media bias. Hysteria sells and is also a form of personal signaling. No wonder 2022 was another busy year for hyperbole.

When Republicans (or, for that matter, Democrats) cast doubt on election outcomes they may be full of baloney, but they aren't "fascists" who denigrate elections rather than demand that they be fair. Hysterical claims about the "death of democracy" had to be rapidly walked back everywhere after Democrats had a good midterm and evidence accumulated that "stop the steal" mainly undermined the appeal of its author. Perhaps the best sentence about the modest contribution of the Jan. 6 Committee came from a European observer who reminded us that, after all, "what threatens democracy is not erroneous beliefs or fake news but a social and economic crisis that political elites are incapable or unwilling to address."

Reverse hysteria also got a workout in 2022, as the media hysterically proclaimed John Durham a failure for non-hysterically going about the job he accepted, namely examining the FBI's actions in the Trump-Russia investigation without going overboard with criminal allegations.

The reverse hysteria was the media's way of continuing to ignore the accumulating picture drawn now by two sets of Justice Department investigators, of an FBI that repeatedly invoked dubious or false "Russian intelligence" to meddle in domestic presidential politics between 2016 and 2020.

Republicans, in their own account, leave out the single most consequential of these episodes, the FBI meddling in 2016 that backfired and likely defeated Hillary Clinton.

Reverse hysteria also helped to obscure another important story. Police killings of blacks, while gaining saturation coverage, actually are a smaller share of all black homicides than for other racial groups. That share likely got even smaller in 2022 for a horrifying reason: an increase in black homicides overall. One study found that while gun homicides of white males remained flat at roughly 3 per 100,000, they jumped an astonishing 60% for black males in the previous two years, to 56 per 100,000.

This phenomenon, apparently related to a crisis in black-police relations after the George Floyd murder, goes unmentioned by many for whom putatively "black lives matter."

Joe Biden intervened in 2022 to prevent as disastrous rail strike not because railroads insist on denying their workers sick days. As USA Today almost alone pointed out, railroads actually were leaders in a national "trend toward giving employees a bank of paid days off, that can be used for any purpose," so workers don't have to "lie about or prove illness to take a sick day."

Perhaps the most misleading moment was a front-page Washington Post story about a rail worker who cancelled a doctor's appointment for an unspecified symptom and died of a heart attack an unspecified number of weeks later.

The Post didn't explain whether the symptom was related to the heart attack, how many weeks had elapsed, whether the worker had a known condition, why he didn't reschedule the appointment, why he didn't use any of his contractual days off or replenishable "points" under a company system that allowed him to reject a work assignment on short notice for any reason.

Correcting the record on democracy's death, nasty railroads, killer hurricanes, etc.

If there were a prize for journalism so enslaved to narrative fulfillment that it couldn't ask the questions that would be obvious to a 12-year-old, the Post won it.

In a tweet thread, Patrick Brown, an atmospheric scientist at the climate-action-supporting Breakthrough Institute, wondered why, apart from increased rainfall, the news media "insist on a framing that misleads its audience into thinking we have experienced a dramatic change in hurricane frequency/intensity?"

Ollie Wing, a University of Bristol hydrologist, wondered in a tweet why the media publishes exaggerated flood maps to suggest centimeters of sea-level rise will result in meter-deep floods. The maps are based on so-called bare earth digital overlays that ignore natural and artificial flood barriers, including trees and other vegetation, which in any climate act to limit flooding.

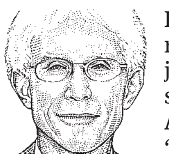
Mr. Wing's own recently published study indicates that expected increases in U.S. flooding losses in the next 30 years will be primarily due to increased development, not climate change.

The year that ended saw the expressions "existential" and "climate crisis" become conjoined twins in the press. Yet a reader searched in vain for any mention that a long-awaited report from the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reduced its estimated path of future emissions and also judged the climate to be less prone to worst-case warming than previously thought.

The demand for racism from a hysteria-hungry media also continued to exceed supply in 2022, the representative case being the Brigham Young University volleyball crowd that didn't chant a racial epithet at a visiting player, as a subsequent investigation found.

Henry Kissinger, in an interview with a Journal colleague, ended the year by complaining about the quality of political leadership in our world. Before we can expect better from voters and the leaders they pick, we might have to expect better from the media and social media from which our common, non-hysterical understandings are made.

America Is a Sick Society—Literally



POLITICS & IDEAS
By William A. Galston

For most of my life, I rejected the assertion that America is a "sick society." This judgment seemed too broad and lacking in nuance. Yes, there was regress in some areas, such as the surge of gun-related crimes in the 1980s. But there was progress on other fronts. Life expectancy increased steadily, and a rising share of Americans had access to healthcare. The rate of smoking among young people declined sharply, as did teen pregnancy. Many gaps among racial and ethnic groups were narrowing.

These positive developments gave me hope that the U.S. was moving in a healthier direction. Over the past two decades, however, I've increasingly questioned my earlier confidence. Now, in the wake of the pandemic, I've concluded that I was wrong.

It's no secret that life expectancy in the U.S. is much lower than it should be. In 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, we ranked 29th among the 38 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. U.S. life expectancy trailed Germany's by 2.5 years, Canada's by 3.2 years, and France's by four years.

Some of this disparity reflects the U.S.'s terrible performance in infant mortality. It ranked 33rd, behind every European and Asian country in the OECD. Some of it reflects huge geographical disparities within the U.S. The life expectancy gap in 2019 between America's best state (Hawaii) and its worst was about seven years. Still, even Hawaii trailed 25 OECD countries. (West Virginia would have placed dead last, behind Mexico.)

The pandemic made things worse, because the Covid death rate in the U.S. was much higher than in most other high-income countries. The U.S. suffered 332 deaths per 100,000 population, compared with 240 in France, 194 in Germany, and 128 in Canada. U.S. life expectancy fell to 76.4 years in 2021, the lowest since 1996, erasing a quarter-century of progress. By the end of 2021, the life-expectancy gap between the U.S. and Germany had widened to 4.3 years, and between the U.S. and France to six years.

Some of this damage may reverse as the pandemic recedes. But another trend is moving in the opposite direction—the alarming surge in drug-related deaths.

During the final three decades of the 20th century, deaths from overdoses rose slowly from a low base. In 2000 about 17,000 Americans (62 per million) died from drug overdoses. By 2020 this figure had risen more than fivefold, to 92,000. Here again we lead other high-income countries in an unwelcome category. The U.S. 2020 death rate from overdoses of 277 per million compared unfavorably with Canada's 171 per million, Germany's 19 per million, and France's 7 per million. Preliminary statistics indicate that overdose deaths in the U.S. rose even further in 2021, to 107,000 (320 per million) before leveling off in 2022.

A poor pandemic response and high drug-overdose deaths prove all is not well.

Although every state has suffered, regional differences are significant. Death rates are highest in Appalachia (mainly Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia) and lowest in the Great Plains. Drug abuse has risen faster among men than women, and among white and black Americans compared with Hispanics and Asians. Consistent with the press coverage, the bulk of the increase in drug-related deaths is attributable to opioid abuse, especially of synthetic substances such as fentanyl.

The surge in obesity is another factor keeping U.S. life expectancy below the level it would otherwise have reached. Between 2000 and 2020, the rate of obesity in the U.S. has risen from 30.5% to 41.9%. It is now the highest of any developed country and a stunning 10 times the rate in the lowest, Japan. Obesity is linked to several life-shortening diseases and has contributed significantly to the rise in diabetes, which is estimated to afflict 13% of U.S. adults.

No roster of our life-shortening ills would be complete without gun violence, which has surged again during the past decade after falling steadily from its high in the early 1990s. Here again we lead the world, unfortunately. The U.S. rate of firearm homicide per million adults stands at 41, compared with 5 in Canada, 3 in France, 2 in Australia, and 1 in Germany.

In sum, we Americans seem less able than others to control our appetites and tempers, and we are far more likely to resort to mood-altering drugs with lethal effects. We don't care enough about healthy infants to give new parents in lower-income families the help they need. And despite our wealth, advanced health technology and world-leading healthcare expenditure per capita, our public-health system has performed poorly under stress.

Liberals and conservatives will continue to argue about why this is so. But the conclusion seems inescapable: For now, anyway, the U.S. is indeed a sick society.

Is Experience Always Necessary?

By Brenda Cronin

Everything is an experience these days. Billboards on the Long Island Expressway plump for "The New York State Experience." Visiting the doctor? That's a "healthcare experience." The U.S. Postal Service is so keen on "providing excellent customer experiences," it conducts surveys "to capture our customer's experience when interacting with us."

At the end of a recent flight, the announcer trilled, "We really do hope you have enjoyed your Virgin Atlantic experience." Seat-back screens on JetBlue reinforce the message with bulletins reading "Please listen for a quick announcement—Your experience will resume shortly." Travel usually feels like drudgery, so to be amped up to an experience, doesn't a flight require something special, like an onboard raffle for a round-the-world spree, or perhaps an epic mishap? Southwest Airlines' website heralds "the next generation of Customer Experience in travel," but doesn't mention baggage scavenger hunts or harrowing delays and cancellations.

Routine tasks of daily life are being billed as something special.

A representative from my gym left a phone message: "I just wanted to see how you enjoyed your experience when you came in." The place has the austere but amiable feel of a 1990s YMCA and membership fees to match. Workouts there are less an experience than an efficient habit, consisting of swimming or hitting the elliptical, with its blurry screen and one TV channel.

In a 1997 Wall Street Journal essay, "How to Profit From Experience," B. Joseph Pine II and James H. Gilmore touted experience as a business model. Unlike goods and services, experiences engage customers in a "personal, memorable way," that a box of cereal or a bank transaction doesn't. But their examples—going to an amusement park or a five-star restaurant—were more plausible experiences than mailing a letter or stocking up on dog chow.

Perhaps all this experience merely reflects inflation of language, akin to "I am cognizant of that fact" when "I know" will do.

Job postings indicate there are legions honing what were once chores and errands into experiences. Openings abound for UX designers—who toil on improving the "user experience"—at not only fancy shops but also businesses that install burglar alarms, ship packages or rent storage units. Few tedious tasks and transactions, whether online or in person, have changed noticeably. They usually involve waiting, completing forms and navigating obstacles such as delays or out-of-stock supplies. Does exalting everyday actions—whether queuing in a jetway or filling a prescription—actually elevate them from the humdrum?

Even ordering coffee online and then collecting it is an experience, Starbucks says. When we're tooling around from one experience to another, what distinguishes these moments?

If everyone is experiencing something—and often—surely that detracts from the singularity that vaults a moment out of ordinary life and into the realm of the exceptionally good or bad. As Jimi Hendrix might say, we're all experienced now.

Ms. Cronin is an associate editorial features editor at the Journal.

BOOKSHELF | By Marc Levinson

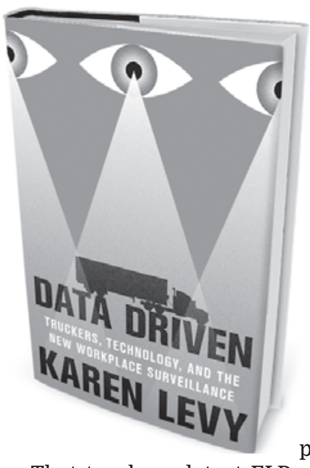
Miles Of Mandates

Data Driven

By Karen Levy
(Princeton, 231 pages, $33)

Falling asleep at the wheel is deadly. "It is obvious that a man cannot work efficiently or be a safe driver if he does not have an opportunity for approximately 8 hours sleep in 24," the Interstate Commerce Commission declared in 1937. Ever since, federal rules have limited the work hours of interstate truckers. Also ever since, truckers, their employers and their customers have circumvented the rules when they stand in the way of making money.

Congress tackled the problem in 2012 by requiring long-distance truckers to track their hours with an "electronic logging device" connected to the engine. The mandatory rest breaks and the limits on drivers' daily and weekly hours didn't change, but the Transportation Department estimated that monitoring compliance with an ELD would avoid 1,844 crashes and save 26 lives annually. The mandate took partial effect in 2017 and was fully implemented in 2019.



In "Data Driven: Truckers, Technology, and the New Workplace Surveillance," Karen Levy makes a provocative case against this approach. Ms. Levy, a sociologist and lawyer who teaches information science at Cornell University, combines extensive interviews with a thorough understanding of the trucking industry to assert that ELDs haven't made the roads safer. Her concise and lively book will interest anyone concerned with the complicated business of regulation.

That truckers detest ELDs is old news. Many think of themselves as kings of the road with the skills and experience vital to delivering America's freight. They don't like Uncle Sam determining when they're too tired to drive. As Ms. Levy puts it: "Being electronically tracked . . . is completely antithetical to truckers' professional identity."

The ELD mandate is also at odds with the way the U.S. trucking industry functions. Long-distance truckers are largely paid by the mile. The shippers the trucking industry serves, however, have no incentive to load or unload trucks quickly. Time spent "detained" at a shipper's loading dock is often unpaid, but it can count against the number of hours a trucker may legally work during the day, effectively limiting the number of miles he or she can cover. As an aphorism has it: "If the wheel ain't turnin', you ain't earnin.' " At a fixed rate per mile, truckers are tempted to drive more than they safely should to compensate for income sacrificed to detention time.

Moreover, Ms. Levy asserts, the devices have tilted the balance of power in the industry against drivers. While regulations require only that ELDs store data related to work time for retrieval by inspectors, trucking companies can add on software that can track a vehicle minute by minute, continuously monitor its speed, and chastise the driver for hitting the brakes too hard or accelerating too fast. As Ms. Levy observed in her research, a dispatcher sitting far away with ELD data on the screen and the Weather Channel on the television may override a trucker's judgment that the weather is too rough to drive through and order him or her to get on the road.

"The ELD mandate viewed [drivers]—the least powerful members of the industry—as untrustworthy liars who needed to be better policed, rather than professionals doing their best to negotiate difficult logistics in the face of countervailing demands," Ms. Levy writes.

On the failures of a well-intentioned regulation of the trucking industry that has not made the roads any safer.

And what of safety? In a fascinating chapter, the author explores how the ELD mandate has changed the work of the officers who enforce the hours-of-service rules, mainly at roadside weigh stations. Formerly, truckers handed their log book out the window to inspectors, who could peruse it, question the driver, consult databases on a computer, and check truck-stop receipts to judge whether the log was accurate. ELDs, though, force officers to work inside truck cabs, with the driver nearby. "When officers inspected electronic logs, the interaction between enforcer and enforcee could shift from being an adversarial one—aimed at uncovering inconsistencies in accounts and probing the trucker's veracity—to being reluctantly collaborative," Ms. Levy found. The result: fewer and less effective inspections.

Unfortunately, Ms. Levy's analysis of the trucking industry is incomplete. In particular, she neglects to mention that trucking may be the most highly subsidized form of transportation in the U.S. Most federal and state expenditures for highways are funded by taxes on motor fuels. The last major federal study, updated in 2000, found that the highway wear and tear caused by heavy trucks far exceeds what those trucks pay in fuel taxes, and studies in several states have found much the same. Ms. Levy complains of the "lack of political will" to build more places for truckers to park during their off-duty hours, but she doesn't ask why taxpayers should relieve truck operators of that cost. Such subsidies make shipping by truck artificially cheap, leading to more work behind the wheel than if the industry fully paid its own way.

Nonetheless, Ms. Levy raises important questions about regulation in general by examining the unintended effects of a well-meant initiative designed to address a serious safety problem. She reports on a 2021 study linking ELDs to greater compliance with regulations but no reduction in truck crashes. Fatalities in crashes involving large trucks actually increased, as drivers sped up to cover as many miles as they could during their permitted driving time. "ELDs—*if integrated alongside other meaningful economic reforms*—might well be one component of a healthy, reorganized trucking industry," Ms. Levy writes. "The problem in trucking is that drivers are incentivized to work themselves well beyond healthy limits—sometimes to death. The ELD doesn't solve this problem, or even attempt to do so."

Mr. Levinson's books include "The Box: How the Shipping Container Made the World Smaller and the World Economy Bigger."

OPINION

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

The GOP's Chaos Caucus Returns

House Republicans say they want to drain the swamp and save America, but they can't even get through Day 1 without a display of dysfunction. Stipulated, Rep. Kevin McCarthy isn't everyone's ideal of a conservative Speaker. But he has led the House GOP since 2019, raised oodles of money for November's midterms, and easily won a leadership vote last year, 188-31.

A rump faction blocks McCarthy's Speaker bid, and for what?

Yet when the House gathered to organize itself Tuesday, a rump Republican faction blocked Mr. McCarthy's elevation as Speaker. After the first roll call, Democratic Rep. Hakeem Jeffries had 212 votes. Mr. McCarthy had 203. Nineteen Republicans named somebody else. With no majority winner (218 votes), the leadership race went to multiple ballots, a spectacle that hasn't been witnessed since 1923. By our deadline, the House had adjourned after voting three times but with little movement in the numbers.

Voters elected a Republican House to check the Biden Administration, investigate the anarchy at the southern border, and pressure Democrats on spending, inflation and energy production. Some of Mr. McCarthy's doubters see him as too ideologically flexible. But if the GOP could stick together the way that Democrats did after 2020 (and with an equally small majority), almost any Speaker could provide the electorate what it ordered, along with a clear choice in 2024.

More than a few Republicans, alas, have a history of preferring combative sound bites to actual governing, and the fiasco Tuesday is an ominous sign of old habits being reasserted. The GOP's House majority is historically narrow, 222-212. Democrats still hold the Senate and the White House. Add those two facts together, and the reality is that conservative policy victories over the next two years will necessarily involve negotiating for half a loaf.

What's so unclear about this? One puzzling document was a list of demands for Mr. McCarthy posted by Rep. Scott Perry, who leads the Freedom Caucus. He wants guaranteed votes on a balanced budget and "term limits for Members of Congress," plus a pledge that "all amendments to cut spending would be allowed floor consideration," plus a promise that Mr. McCarthy would stay neutral in open GOP primaries. Rep. Ralph Norman hinted Mr. McCarthy could earn his vote for Speaker with a plan to balance the budget in seven years.

Symbolic votes have their uses, and debates and floor votes over spending will be important to have. They would show the differences between the parties, especially after the Senate GOP spending of the last two years. But the burden of political leadership is doing this in a way that unites Republicans and passes the House with a GOP majority. Without 218 Republican votes in the House, Republicans will have no leverage to negotiate with a Democratic Senate and White House no matter who is Speaker.

Mr. McCarthy made many concessions to his critics, including a rule that would let a mere five dissatisfied Members force a vote on deposing him as Speaker. This unfortunate concession is one reason to wonder about him as Speaker because it will weaken his ability to enforce consensus and discipline on the hard votes to come—such as raising the federal debt limit.

But the GOP chaos caucus didn't want to take yes for an answer. A few Republicans revel in making messes, including Rep. Matt Gaetz. According to Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Gaetz declared that he didn't care if Mr. Jeffries ended up elected as a Democratic Speaker of a Republican House. This kind of peacock politics doesn't serve Mr. Gaetz's Florida constituents.

Mr. Gaetz wanted to elect Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan as Speaker. Yet Mr. Jordan gave a rousing speech to nominate Mr. McCarthy. "I think Kevin McCarthy is the right guy to lead us," Mr. Jordan said, before urging his conservative House colleagues to "rally around him." Also backing Mr. McCarthy are President Trump and Sen. Mitch McConnell, which is like getting endorsed by cats *and* dogs.

Republicans have a record of wasting political capital on futile gestures, such as telling GOP voters that President Obama would sign a bill defunding ObamaCare if only the GOP establishment would do . . . something. Now would President Biden sign a balanced budget, if only Kevin McCarthy would do . . . something?

House Republicans have won two years in the majority to show the electorate they can govern better than Democrats and President Biden. They're getting off to the kind of start that will persuade even their own voters to send them back to the minority in short order.

The Paul Ehrlich Apocalypse Is Back

We'll say this for Paul Ehrlich—at least he's consistent. In 1968 the Stanford biologist famously declared that "the battle to feed all humanity is over," at a time when the earth's population was about 3.5 billion. Today we have a population of eight billion (better fed than ever), yet there was Mr. Ehrlich, on CBS's "60 Minutes" Sunday night, still predicting that "humanity is very busily sitting on a limb that we're sawing off."

His predictions have been famously wrong, but doom springs eternal.

The CBS narrator acknowledged that the green revolution in agriculture disproved Mr. Ehrlich's prediction of mass famine. But the show went on to suggest that Mr. Ehrlich's repackaged gloom about melting icecaps and the rate of extinction may finally prove him right in saying we are still heading the way of the dinosaurs.

As with Thomas Malthus, the father of doom-and-gloomers, the repeated failures of Mr. Ehrlich's predictions of catastrophe to materialize never seem to discourage those who believe human beings are breeding and consuming our way to destruction.

The reason these dire prophecies fail is that they ignore the most decisive variable: human ingenuity. In the years since Mr. Ehrlich first forecast apocalypse, human beings have found untold new ways to improve life on earth—e.g., by reclaiming arable land, inventing new medicines, increasing food production, making clean water more available and lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty.

Mr. Ehrlich is 90 years old and looking spry. When he was born in 1932, life expectancy for an American baby was 61 years. For Americans who will be born in 2023, it's 79.11 years. One explanation is that much of what Mr. Ehrlich considers to be a population "crisis" is simply because people are living longer and much less likely to die as infants.

Another way of putting it is that Mr. Ehrlich is living proof that we are living through what his intellectual nemesis, Julian Simon, liked to call an "epidemic of life." We'd say that's a cause for celebration.

Biden's Food-Stamp Trickery

One peril of a large administrative state is the mischief agencies can get up to when no one is watching. Witness the overreach of the Agriculture Department, which expanded food-stamp benefits by evading the process for determining benefits and end-running Congressional review.

The USDA pushed an increase without Congressional review.

The behavior has earned USDA two scoldings this year from the Government Accountability Office. The latest report in December thwacked the department for "key decisions [that] did not fully meet standards for economic analysis" as well as "insufficient analysis of the effects of decisions" and "lack of documentation."

The sneak started in 2021 when USDA rejiggered the Thrifty Food Plan, a metric the government uses to determine foods that make up a healthy nutritional basket. Agriculture uses that information, as well as food prices and inflation, to set benefits for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (known as SNAP, or food stamps).

Congress controls the purse and reviews benefits for social safety-net programs including food stamps. Since the 1970s, SNAP benefits and the Thrifty Food Plan have been adjusted annually for inflation. But in 2020 USDA extended a special 15% emergency increase in response to the pandemic and shortages and price hikes for certain foods owing to shortages.

The pandemic increase was set to expire in September 2021, so the USDA hurried to push through its 2021 increase on an abbreviated time frame, increasing SNAP benefits by an average of 21%. The result skipped over procedural safeguards, evaded Congressional review and produced its increases without a project plan or program manager. According to a review by Angela Rachidi at the American Enterprise Institute, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the 2021 increase in the Thrifty Food Plan added $200 billion to the budget baseline over 10 years.

In its first review of USDA, the GAO skewered Agriculture's process for having violated the Congressional Review Act, noting that the "2021 [Thrifty Food Plan] meets the definition of a rule under the [Congressional Review Act] and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the 2021 TFP is subject to the requirement that it be submitted to Congress." GAO's second report says "officials made this update without key project management and quality assurance practices in place."

Abuse of process doesn't get much clearer than that. The GAO review won't unwind the increase, which requires action by the USDA. But the GAO report should resonate with taxpayers who don't like to see the politicization of a process meant to provide nutrition to those in need, not act as a vehicle for partisan agency staffers to impose their agenda without Congressional approval.

All of this undermines transparency and accountability for a program that provided food stamps to some 41 million people in 2021. The Biden Administration is using the cover of the pandemic to expand the entitlement state beyond what Congress authorized. House Republicans can draw attention to this lawlessness and use their power of the purse to stop it to the extent possible with a Democratic Senate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America Is Determined to Sabotage Its Grid

Your editorials "The Christmas Grid Emergency" (Dec. 27) and "The Cold Reality of Buffalo" (Dec. 28) give a sobering taste of what's to come if hubristic climate policy keeps overriding human needs. Things aren't going to improve so long as governments choose to suppress reliable methods of generating electricity in favor of alternatives whose availability depends on the wind, sunshine or clouds.

U.S. wind energy facilities deliver their designated power output on average about 34% of the time. Solar panels are even less efficient, yielding an average of 24% of their rated capacity. The more we try to increase the share of total power demand obtained from these sources while retiring fossil-fuel and nuclear plans, the greater the risk of inadequate supply.

Meanwhile, we've set out on a forced march to replace our transportation fleet with vehicles that may increase electricity demand by as much as threefold. What could go wrong?

David Hoopman
Monona, Wis.

President Biden owns the issue of America's creaking electrical grid. His war on fossil fuels and unending push to transition rapidly to green energy have put us in this dangerous position. The not-in-my-backyard environmental activists fiercely oppose new power transmission lines needed to transport electrons from remote windmills and solar fields to consumers. And the planet-saviors want to eliminate the burning of fossil fuels yesterday. Mr. Biden doesn't want to offend either of these constituencies, so he pretends there is no conflict to be resolved. This is a national security issue, in addition to a huge economic and health issue.

Jim Miller
Southlake, Texas

Think Before You Cancel Southwest Airlines

Regarding your editorial "Pete Buttigieg, Air Traffic Controller" (Dec. 29): We had two flights canceled and drove 820 miles to get home. But we were alerted many times by Southwest Airlines, days before we traveled, about weather delays. The storm was national news. We still decided to travel.

Southwest employees at the Austin, Texas, airport were wonderful. One who was leaving her shift after 14 hours stopped to help us. We still love Southwest—flexible changes, no change fees, no bag fees, no upcharge for two extra inches and so forth. The airline will be better after this, and I hope it offers everyone the same comps in vouchers or points. We want Southwest to stay in business.

C.C. Prickett
Birmingham, Ala.

Mr. Buttigieg is on the right track in blasting Southwest for its inexcusable performance during the holiday rush. The industry requires closer oversight with regard to overbooking, storm preparation and better systems to support the pent-up demand post-Covid. Severe penalties for noncompliance should be on the table.

The government was there for the industry during the pandemic with financial support. Neither this influx of air traffic nor the violent storms of late were any surprise. The industry needs to upgrade its operating systems to ensure a severe storm can't bring it to dysfunction like this again.

Ed Greenbaum
Bloomfield, Conn.

U.S. air travel is what it is because U.S.-flagged airlines are protected from foreign competition by Congress and domestic competition is tightly controlled by airport boards that assign gates.

Neal Shields
Fort Worth, Texas

The rash of flight cancellations by Southwest is a black mark on an otherwise fabulous airline. Perhaps it does need to upgrade its flight-management system. But Southwest has been a godsend to our airline industry, revolutionizing U.S. air travel in the 1970s with low fares, friendly customer service, no change fees and more, which forced other carriers to cut fares to compete or stop flying to cities served by Southwest.

Years ago, my wife and I were on one of the first Southwest flights out of T.F. Green airport near Providence, R.I., to Baltimore. It was a little bumpy on takeoff, and the flight attendants placed the famous peanut packets on the floor at the front of the plane as it ascended, allowing the vibration to carry them down the aisle, and telling the stunned passengers to grab them as they came by. People were mortified. But within two years, Southwest had virtually taken over T.F. Green airport.

It's highly unlikely that more government regulation of the airlines will yield any better result than the Affordable Care Act has for consumers.

Bob Landreth
Midland, Texas

What Is the Real Purpose of Cryptocurrency?

The underlying purpose of cryptocurrencies is to pay for the security and services (such as smart-contract execution) rendered by a decentralized network ("Crypto Is Money Without a Purpose" by Todd Baker, op-ed, Dec. 20). Those services can be compensated only in a digital-native currency that is outside the control of single actors such as central banks. There is speculation, as is the case in any emerging market, and there is room for smart regulation of centralized exchanges, but that is no excuse for Mr. Baker's complete misunderstanding of the innovation.

Jeremy Epstein
Chief marketing officer, Radix
Washington

Peter Goettler writes that "as an application of freedom and innovation to create an alternative to government controlled fit money, Crypto's reason for being couldn't be more clear and noble." (Letters, Dec. 27). For most people, nothing about crypto is at all clear or noble. Often, the only thing it seems to be used for is buying drugs on the dark web and paying off ransomware.

Dal Coger
Medford, Mass.

The Local News in Chicago Has Long Been the Same

Regarding Joseph Epstein's "Chicago News Is Nothing but Crime" (op-ed, Dec. 21): I am 71 and have lived in the Chicago area all my life. The news formula hasn't changed. The first 12 minutes are devoted to depressing news—murders, crime and local politics—followed by commercials. The next seven minutes feature a beloved weatherman, followed by commercials. Four minutes are given to a usually depressing sports report but with interesting reporters. More commercials follow. The final few minutes go to an upbeat human-interest story.

Chicago is beautiful. It has too many guns, but this is a curse urban areas have to live with until gun laws change. Meanwhile, the news remains the same. Probably it always will.

Charles Schroeder
Downers Grove, Ill.

It Slipped Joe Biden's Mind

Daniel Henninger sets our collective New Year's resolution for 2023, "Sober Up, America" (Wonder Land, Dec. 29), and delivers the line of the past year: "It slipped Joe Biden's mind that the U.S. has a southern border."

Glenn Tyranski
Huntington, N.Y.

Pat Boone Did Not Stray

By the time I was born, Pat Boone's records were on fewer jukeboxes and his name was gone from marquees (Weekend Interview by Matthew Hennessey, Dec. 24). But as a man and an artist, he never compromised his Christian ethics. He is an exemplar of the biblical injunction to be in the world but not of the world.

Brad O'Brien
Schertz, Texas

CORRECTION

The House Build Back Better legislation did not include full capital expensing. The Jan. 3 editorial "Unhappy New Tax Year" mistakenly reported that it did.

Letters intended for publication should be emailed to wsj.ltrs@wsj.com. Please include your city, state and telephone number. All letters are subject to editing, and unpublished letters cannot be acknowledged.

Pepper ... And Salt

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

"I just want to preface this by saying I'll get in big trouble at the monastery for this."

OPINION

The West Needs America’s Leadership

By Jamie Dimon

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine punctured many assumptions about the future of the world and thus was a pivotal moment in history. America and the West can no longer maintain a false sense of security based on the illusion that dictatorships and oppressive nations won’t use their economic and military powers to advance their aims—particularly against what they perceive as weak, incompetent and disorganized Western democracies. In a troubled world, we are reminded that national security is and always will be paramount, even if it seems to recede in tranquil times.

How the U.S. can marshal its strengths—not only military but also moral, economic and diplomatic.

It should also lay to rest the idea that America can stand alone. U.S. leaders must always put America first, but global peace and order is a vital American interest. Only America has the full capability to lead and coalesce the Western world, though we must do so respectfully and in partnership with our allies. Without cohesiveness and unity with our allies, autocratic forces will divide and conquer the bickering West. America needs to lead with its strengths—not only military but also economic, diplomatic and moral. Here’s what we can do:

• *Rededicate ourselves to the qualities and principles that made America great.* These principles are life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness and the idea that all people are created equal. Democracy and human freedom are inseparable from freedom of speech, freedom of religion and free enterprise. It would help to educate all Americans about the sacrifice of those who came before us for democracy at home and abroad.

We need to acknowledge the critical role that government plays—and we need government to be more competent and accountable. We must build stronger safety nets to care for the poor, the old and the disabled, and to cushion adjustment to economic change, while also maintaining economic dynamism, individual responsibility and the dignity of work. We must confront crises and failures of public policy by developing better policies and by dealing with realities. We can recognize the mistakes America has made without disparaging the nation.

DAVID GOTHARD

We support global human rights and stand on the side of liberty, but we also have to be realistic about the compromises necessary to accomplish long-term goals. Remember Franklin D. Roosevelt and Winston Churchill allied with Stalin against Hitler’s imminent threat.

• *Develop a Marshall Plan for global energy and food security.* This will be critical both in keeping the Western alliances together and minimizing the global suffering caused by starvation. Global energy and food supply chains are precarious by their nature. And it should be self-evident that energy security and preventing climate change aren’t contradictory: Secure and reliable oil and gas production is compatible with reducing CO2 over the long run, and is far better than burning more coal. It should also be self-evident that global food and energy security relies on realistic trade policy and American military strength.

• *Increase military spending, along with our allies, as much as necessary to protect the world.* Not only is America a bastion of freedom; it is still the arsenal of democracy, and economic sanctions are no substitute for an effective military. “We know only too well that war comes not when the forces of freedom are strong, but when they are weak,” as Ronald Reagan said in 1980. Military strength needs to be combined and coordinated with strong diplomatic and economic aid for the developing world. Thoughtful policies would help many nations lift up their people, develop their human rights and join economic unions that are good for all involved.

• *Recover our economic dynamism.* A strong economy is the foundation for American power, and we haven’t focused enough on economic growth. Between 2000 and 2020, real U.S. gross domestic product grew at an average rate of only 1.7% a year. Had we grown at 3%, last year’s GDP per person would have been $15,000 higher. That would help pay for much of what we need to do as a nation.

Economic growth will repair the fraying of the American dream, particularly if we share the wealth by improving education and wages for lower-paid citizens. There are many effective ways to do this, such as raising minimum wages and expanding the earned-income tax credit. We must also fix the immigration policies that are tearing us apart, dramatically reducing illegal immigration and dramatically increasing legal immigration. Economic growth will reduce inflation, reduce the deficit, and make it easier to afford the strong military we need. We aren’t going to have the economic growth we need with the legal, regulatory and bureaucratic system we have today.

Global trade will necessarily be restructured so that we don’t rely on potential adversaries for critical goods and services. This will require more “industrial planning” than America is used to—and we must ensure it is properly done and is not used for political purposes. Yet America should also open its arms, through trade and aid, to all other nations. Most developing countries would prefer to align economically with the West if we help them solve their problems. We should develop a new strategic and economic framework to make ourselves their partner of choice.

• *Deal with China thoughtfully and without fear.* America still has an enormously strong hand—plenty of food, water and energy; peaceful neighbors; and what is still the most prosperous and dynamic economy the world has ever seen, with a GDP per person of more than $75,000 a year. We can have faith that our system will maintain the economic dynamism we need. China has done a great job lifting up its nation and bringing its GDP per person up to $13,000 a year. Yet any fair assessment must recognize its challenges—not enough food, water and energy; a very complex geopolitical situation with tough neighbors; a lack of freedom that creates economic rigidity and malinvestment.

Whether you think it is a competitor or a potential adversary, we, along with our allies, should firmly negotiate with China (where my company and its predecessor firms have done business for more than a century). We should acknowledge that we have common interests in combating nuclear proliferation, climate change and terrorism. Tough but thoughtful negotiations over strategic, military and economic concerns—including unfair competition—should yield a better situation for all. If America leads well, China will be better off forming partnerships with a strong Western world than with Russia, Iran and other such nations.

Together, we can ensure America’s leadership for the next 100 years.

Mr. Dimon is chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

New State Laws May Make 2023 a Year of Unintended Consequences

UPWARD MOBILITY
By Jason L. Riley

New year, same lousy policies.

Last week, a judge in California placed a temporary hold on a law that would raise the state minimum wage for fast-food workers as high as $22 an hour. The law was signed by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom last summer and set to be implemented on Jan. 1. But a petition to overturn it by voter referendum in 2024 has gathered more than a million signatures, which prompted the restraining order.

For now, California is getting a reprieve, but the other 26 states that are hiking the minimum wage this year probably won’t be so lucky. Proponents of these measures say they reduce poverty, but history shows that they are more likely to reduce employment—particularly among younger, less experienced workers—by making job seekers too costly to hire.

Even people who keep their jobs after a minimum-wage increase often find themselves assigned fewer hours of work and thus making less money than they might have expected. That was the finding of a University of Washington analysis after Seattle hiked its minimum wage in 2015. “Increased wages,” the study concluded, “were offset by modest reductions in employment and hours, thereby limiting the extent to which higher wages directly translated into higher average earnings.”

Perhaps a bigger problem with using mandatory wage floors to address poverty is the dearth of people who earn minimum wage. In 2020, only 1.5% of all hourly workers earned the federal minimum wage, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. State minimum wages can be higher, but the portion of workers earning the state minimum is also quite small. In 2015, it was less than 8%. In other words, there simply aren’t enough people earning minimum wages to drive poverty trends. Moreover, most working people who are poor already earn higher than the minimum, and most of the people who do take home a minimum wage live in households that are well above the poverty line. What impoverished people need most are jobs, and minimum-wage increases that hamper job creation do more harm than good.

Unfortunately, government-imposed wage mandates aren’t the only misguided policies that will be unleashed this year. In November, Maryland and Missouri became the 21st and 22nd states to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. And last month, New York state began issuing “cannabis dispensary licenses” after settling a dispute over who qualified to skip to the front of the line. Lawmakers wanted to give preference to racial and ethnic minority applicants who had been convicted of drug crimes but didn’t specify whether the conviction had to have taken place in New York. It’s in the details.

Higher minimum wages, pot legalization and limits on school choice will harm the intended beneficiaries.

Some of the same people who celebrated the crackdowns on companies that manufacture opioids or produce vaping products have decided that weed must be not only legalized but subsidized by taxpayers. New York has planned “a $200 million public-private fund to aid ‘social equity’ applicants to help redress the ravages of the war on drugs, especially in communities of color,” the Associated Press reported.

Never mind that thousands of low-income racial and ethnic minority children remain on waiting lists for charter schools in New York because lawmakers won’t cross the teachers union and increase the arbitrary limit on how many charters can open. Parents can take comfort in knowing that the politicians are putting the interests of former (and future) drug dealers ahead of the interests of children who want to attend better schools.

There are compelling reasons to decriminalize and regulate certain drugs—the Prohibition comparison is apt—but social equity isn’t one of them. If social-justice advocates want to address mass incarceration or racial disparities in arrest rates, marijuana legalization is barking up the wrong tree. In Colorado and Washington state, where marijuana was legalized in 2012, blacks are still arrested at significantly higher rates than whites for pot-related offenses.

In the popular imagination, prisons are teeming with unlucky young black and Hispanic men who were caught with small amounts of marijuana for personal use. In reality, prisons are full of violent offenders, who outnumber drug offenders by almost 4 to 1, and the drug offenders who are incarcerated typically are there for trafficking. Moreover, even if all drug offenders were released tomorrow, the racial disparities among remaining inmates would barely budge, and we’d still have the largest prison population in the developed world.

The social-justice activism that propels minimum-wage hikes, drug legalization, school-choice opposition and other policies aimed at minorities tends to do the most harm to the intended beneficiaries. The last thing that lagging groups need are policies that price them out of the labor force, trap them in underperforming schools and subsidize counterproductive habits and behaviors.

A Federal Court Ruling Imperils the Charter-School Movement

By Baker A. Mitchell
And Robert P. Spencer

Leland, N.C.

A ruling in a federal court case could spell trouble for the charter-school movement. The case began in 2015 when the American Civil Liberties Union, representing three female students, sued our school.

The plaintiffs in *Peltier v. Charter Day School, Inc.* allege that our uniform policy—which requires girls to wear jumpers, skirts or “skorts” (skirtlike shorts) on most days—violates the girls’ rights under the 14th Amendment’s Equal Protection Clause. After a mixed decision in federal district court, the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in June for the plaintiffs.

By a 10-6 vote, the full court held that CDS is a “state actor,” constitutionally indistinguishable from government-run public schools. That is counter to North Carolina law. CDS is a private nonprofit corporation—a legal requirement for operating a charter school under the state’s Charter School Act. That law specifically empowered charters to set their own rules about comportment, curriculum, appropriate dress and other matters.

If the ruling stands, it could undo the central feature of charter schools: their independence. That would send “education in a monolithic direction, stifling the competition” that spurs improvement, Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III warned in dissent.

Another dissenter, Judge A. Marvin Quattlebaum Jr., focused on precedent, noting that prior to this ruling “neither the Supreme Court nor any federal appellate court” had ever concluded that a publicly funded charter school is a state actor under 42 U.S.C. 1983, the federal law that authorizes lawsuits alleging violations of constitutional rights. The First, Third and Ninth circuits, following Supreme Court guidance in analogous cases, have all held that a private education contractor doesn’t engage in state action unless the state coerced or encouraged the challenged conduct.

The Fourth Circuit’s finding appears to have been based on little more than the convention of calling charters “public charter schools” and their being mostly funded by public sources. But hundreds of American cities contract municipal services out to private companies, which generally aren’t considered state actors. The Supreme Court rejected state-action claims against an investor-owned public utility in *Jackson v. Metropolitan Edison Co.* (1974) and an operator of a public-access TV channel in *Manhattan Community Access Corp. v. Halleck* (2019). If these aren’t state actors, surely neither are North Carolina’s charter schools, which the law promises freedom from government control.

Far more is at stake than CDS’s school-uniform policy, which was designed by parents of our students. The ruling comes at a time when the charter-school movement is growing. Oklahoma’s attorney general recently issued a legal opinion stating that religious organizations must be allowed to operate charter schools in the Sooner State. A key aspect of the opinion was a finding that charter schools are not state actors and, therefore, the Constitution’s Establishment Clause doesn’t prohibit the inculcation of religious values, as it does in government-run schools. In *Carson v. Makin* (2022), the U.S. Supreme Court held that a state voucher program couldn’t discriminate against religious schools.

The Fourth Circuit holds our school is a ‘state actor,’ even though the law makes its independence clear.

Because it lacks meaningful limiting principles, the Fourth Circuit opinion, if allowed to stand, could be applied to charter schools elsewhere, threatening their autonomy, subjecting them to the same rules, regulations and political machinations that have crippled government-run school systems. It would leave many low-income parents and students with no option other than poorly performing district schools.

Charter Day School Inc. has petitioned the Supreme Court to review the decision. Lawyers for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Va.—which is under the Fourth Circuit’s jurisdiction—argue in a friend-of-the-court brief that the Fourth Circuit’s “overbroad approach” could also threaten religious social-service providers that contract with states. “A Jewish adoption service could be named the defendant in a 14th Amendment action,” they write. “A Christian relief ministry could face a Title VII suit without the shield of the statute’s religious exemption. Or a Muslim vocational program could meet with an Establishment Clause challenge.”

The Notre Dame Law School Religious Liberty Clinic, the Jewish Coalition for Religious Liberty and the Religious Freedom Institute’s Islam and Freedom Action Team raise similar concerns in a separate brief.

According to these experts, the Fourth Circuit’s ruling would undercut charter schools and the very foundation of America’s private, voluntary sector. Perhaps that’s what the ACLU and its allies had in mind all along.

Mr. Mitchell is a founder and Mr. Spencer chairman of Charter Day School Inc.

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Stocks Retreat to Start New Year

By Caitlin Ostroff
And Vicky Ge Huang

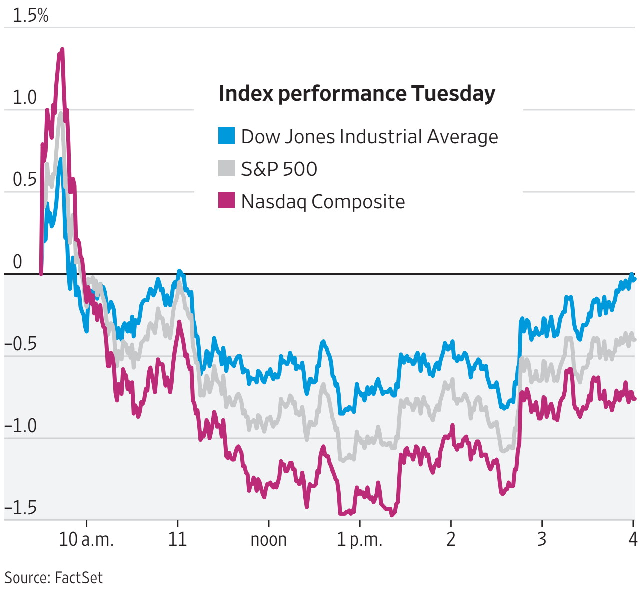
Stocks slipped Tuesday to kick off the new year, pulled lower by investor favorites like **Tesla** and **Apple**.

The S&P 500 fell 15.36 points, or 0.4%, to 3824.14. The index dropped 19% last year, its biggest decline since 2008, the year Lehman Brothers collapsed. The tech-focused Nasdaq Composite dropped 79.50 points, or 0.8%, to 10386.98, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 10.88 points, or less than 0.1%, to 33136.37.

All three indexes opened the session higher before quickly giving up those gains.

Six of the S&P 500's 11 sectors fell, with energy leading the decliners and the communication services and financials sectors among the bright spots.

Investors are wary of what 2023 may bring. Inflation—and the lengths that central bankers are willing to go to tame it—will remain a focus. The Federal Reserve has signaled plans to lift interest rates through the spring, although some traders, expecting that the U.S. could slip into recession, are betting that policy makers will pivot to cutting rates. Investors are also assessing what China's border reopening and wider shift from its previous strict stance on Covid-19 will mean for markets.



Source: FactSet

"Markets have been vacillating about getting optimistic about inflation and China and getting worried about growth," said Altaf Kassam, head of investment strategy and research for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at State Street Global Advisors. "We're going to have this pattern of a few up days and a few down days."

That is likely to spell more volatility for the start of the year, he said. Investors might also be rebalancing their portfolios toward stocks at the start of the year after Treasurys suffered a bruising 2022.

Among individual stocks, Tesla was a notable mover, dropping $15.08, or 12%, to $108.10, its largest percent decrease since Sept. 8, 2020, according to Dow Jones Market Data. The electric-vehicle maker fell short of its 2022 delivery target. Tesla stock suffered its worst-ever year in 2022, declining 65%.

Apple shares declined $4.86, or 3.7%, to $125.07, pulling the iPhone maker's market value below $2 trillion for the first time since March 2021, according to Dow Jones Market Data.

AMC Entertainment, meanwhile, slipped 14 cents, or 3.4%, to $3.93 after rival Cineworld Group said it wasn't in talks with the theater chain regarding the sale of its cinema assets. AMC had said last month that it held discussions regarding a potential strategic acquisition of theaters from the bankrupt Cineworld.

In bond markets, the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note ticked down to 3.791% from 3.826% Friday on signs of cooling inflation. Yields and prices move inversely.

Tuesday's session marked the one-year anniversary of the S&P 500's last record close,

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Southwest Issues Bonus Points to Customers

By Dawn Gilbertson

Southwest Airlines Co. on Tuesday began doling out 25,000 frequent-flier points to travelers affected by its holiday meltdown.

The bonus miles, which the airline notes are in addition to ticket refunds and reimbursement for expenses, were accompanied by a letter from Southwest Chief Executive Bob Jordan.

"I know that no amount of apologies can undo your experience," Mr. Jordan's letter says.

The airline hasn't disclosed the number of passengers affected by nearly 16,000 flight cancellations and on Tuesday didn't disclose the number of points it issued.

Southwest travelers reported long waits after click-

Please turn to page B2

Pace of Layoffs Picks Up Speed In Tech Sector

By Andrew Barnett
And Ming Li

Technology-driven companies across industries have been laying off workers at the fastest pace since the Covid-19 pandemic shocked the global economy in 2020, according to one data tracker.

Collectively, employers in the slumping tech sector cut more than 150,000 jobs in 2022, based on estimates from Layoffs.fyi, a website that tracks the events as they surface in media reports and company releases.

That figure compares with about 80,000 layoffs in March-December 2020 and 15,000 in all of 2021, based on data compiled on the site.

The tally was created by San Francisco internet entrepreneur Roger Lee, who launched the tracker after the pandemic struck "as a side project to create awareness around all of these tech layoffs, in the hopes of helping laid-off employees find a home."

The estimates include large employers such as Facebook parent **Meta Platforms** Inc. (more than 11,000 layoffs announced in November) and **Amazon.com** Inc. (about 10,000 possible job cuts), as well as smaller businesses in the U.S. and abroad.

The figures are rough estimates and don't capture all layoffs but reflect a trend that is playing out in many of the largest tech companies.

For years, many tech companies aggressively added workers amid strong revenue growth and rising share prices.

The hiring pace picked up during the pandemic as individuals and companies leaned on technology to help get through lockdowns and other Covid-related disruptions.

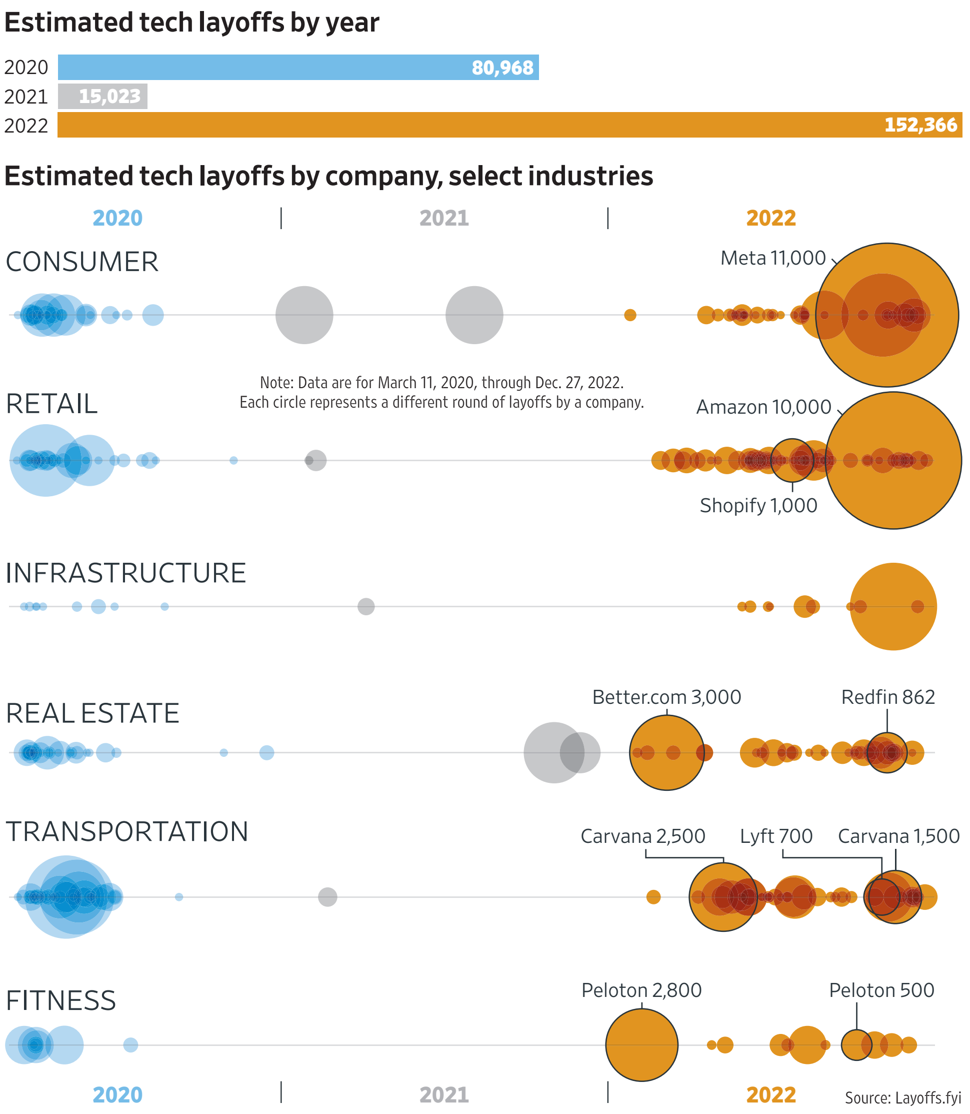
Now, the same businesses are laying off employees, implementing hiring freezes and cutting costs, as spending on tech products slows and the outlook for digital advertising dims.

Some chief executives have apologized for expanding their payrolls too fast.

The pullback in tech hiring has happened when the broader labor market has showed signs of resilience. There are several reasons for the apparent disconnect between news of tech firms cutting workers and the monthly government reports showing overall U.S. payrolls maintaining steady growth—one of which is that many laid-off tech workers are finding new jobs quickly.

About 79% of workers recently hired after a tech-company layoff or termination landed their new job within three months of starting their search, according to a ZipRecruiter survey of new hires.

—Peter Santilli contributed to this article.



Source: Layoffs.fyi

FTX's Founder Pleads Not Guilty

By Corinne Ramey

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried pleaded not guilty to fraud and other criminal charges Tuesday, as a judge set his trial to begin Oct. 2.

Mr. Bankman-Fried, 30 years old, entered his not-guilty plea to all eight criminal counts he faces before U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan in federal court in Manhattan. It was his second appearance in a U.S. court following the collapse of his cryptocurrency exchange.

Prosecutors have accused him of stealing billions of dollars of customer funds from FTX and of defrauding investors and lenders to his trading firm, **Alameda Research**. He also evaded campaign-finance contribution limits and reporting requirements when he made millions of dollars in illegal political contributions

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Fintech Shares Trail Investments in Banks, Silicon Valley Firms

By Peter Rudegeair

The banks of the future are having a rough present.

Financial-tech companies, long hyped for their vision of bringing Silicon Valley-style innovation to the businesses of lending, investing and payments, underperformed both financial stocks and tech stocks more broadly in 2022.

A vulnerability to higher interest rates, the disappearance of many pandemic-era catalysts and a more general reckoning for companies that followed growth-at-all-costs playbooks contributed to many fintech firms' fall from grace.

The **Global X Fintech** ETF fell 52% in 2022. That compares to the 12% decline in the

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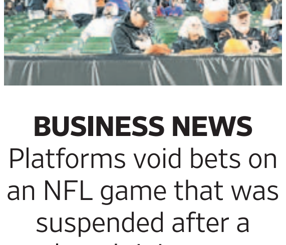

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3M Aims to Blunt Financial Impact Of Battles Over Chemical Products

By Bob Tita

3M Co.'s decision to quit making "forever chemicals" represents a tactical retreat aimed at containing its potential liability over its products in legal fights expected to last for years, analysts say.

3M is defending itself against allegations that chemicals and products it has made for decades have contaminated drinking water and pose health risks. Legal and industry analysts expect 3M to be engaged for years in remediating alleged soil and water contamination from forever chemicals, which have been used in industrial and consumer products including nonstick cookware, carpeting and firefighting foam.

The Minnesota-based company also is a defendant in liability lawsuits for earplugs manufactured for the military. Claims filed by about 230,000 veterans—a record number of claims in a single federal court case—allege that the earplugs failed to protect them from service-related hearing loss.

3M is contesting the claims. In coming trials over the chemicals' use in fire-suppression foam, the company is expected to argue that the foam was produced to U.S. military specifications, providing 3M legal protection as a government contractor. 3M has said the earplugs are safe and effective when soldiers get the proper training on how to use them.

CHRISTOPHER GOODNEY/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Mike Roman, CEO of 3M, has aimed to shed weak businesses.

Some analysts project the company's liability costs will reach tens of billions of dollars. 3M lawyers and executives have said they expect the ultimate costs will be much less, forecasting last summer that the earplug cases alone could be settled for $1 billion.

3M CEO Mike Roman has been trying to boost profits from 3M's slow-growing portfolio of businesses by selling weak performers. Mr. Roman, who took over leadership of the 120-year-old company in 2018, also is planning to spin off the company's healthcare business by the end of 2023, giving 3M investors shares in a separate company with some of 3M's best-performing product lines.

Analysts said investors' anxiety about the litigation is reflected in 3M's stock price, which has fallen 32.5% since the beginning of 2022, compared with a 20% decline in the S&P 500 index. The company's challenges can weigh on the broader equities market because 3M's stock is a component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

3M is expected to use a series of legal moves to lessen its exposure to liability mixed with negotiated settlements with plaintiffs that, over time, could reduce or spread out its liability costs to manageable amounts, legal analysts said.

"3M will continue to remediate the chemicals and address litigation by defending ourselves in court or through negotiated resolutions," a spokesman said.

Analysts said 3M would try to minimize the impact of the litigation costs on the large shareholder dividends that the company is known for on Wall Street.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

IRS Sees Crypto Companies as Potential Allies in Fighting Crime

By Richard Vanderford

The Internal Revenue Service wants to join with the cryptocurrency industry to fight financial crime.

The IRS Criminal Investigation division is bringing on hundreds of new agents a year, including many who will be directed to work on digital assets and cybercrime, said Thomas Fattorusso, the special agent in charge of IRS-CI's New York field office.

The 102-year-old law-enforcement arm of the IRS is one of the top U.S. financial crime enforcers, handling cases from money laundering to Russia sanctions. It has also turned its eyes to cryptocurrency as one of several federal agencies trying to grapple with the burgeoning industry.

Mr. Fattorusso, in an interview with The Wall Street Journal, said IRS-CI, which often competes with the flush crypto sector for talent, welcomes the revolving door—the shuffling of talent between government and industry—as a way to foster ties.

WSJ: How do you view digital assets? Are you willing to work with these companies?
MR. FATTORUSSO: We can't be hostile to the technology. We have to embrace it.

Cryptocurrency is here to stay. It's becoming more legitimate as the years roll on—it becomes more sophisticated. My thought is that those relationships will develop as the years go on and [as] the companies become more comfortable with dealing with the federal government. I don't see how we can operate in this space without it.

WSJ: Are you getting the level of cooperation and partnership from cryptocurrency companies that you would like?
MR. FATTORUSSO: That's something that we're always working toward. I can't say whether we're receiving that or not, but that's always the end goal, to have those partnerships and to have a relationship that isn't contentious. More of a symbiotic relationship.

WSJ: The digital-assets space has some areas that are highly technical. Do you have the talent you need?
MR. FATTORUSSO: We've been very fortunate, especially in the last couple of years. We're on a hiring push right now, so we're hiring several hundred agents a year and sending them to the academy with the hopes that they come out and they become part of the team of the finest financial investigators.

But a lot of them have a technical background. They're younger. They grew up in the technology world. More so than me, for example, who didn't grow up in that world.

Sometimes it's hard to compete with private companies. But there are those out there that want to dedicate their life to service, that want to combat fraud, that want to do law-enforcement work.

We've been very good about hiring data scientists in CI in the last few years, which is brand new for us.

WSJ: On the topic of competing with the private sector, certain federal agencies have been known to have a revolving door, where talented people come work for them, then join the private sector. Is that happening in your agency?
MR. FATTORUSSO: We're starting to see that more often now, especially with cyber. We've had several of our cyber agents and managers go to private companies. We are finding those partnerships to be beneficial because they understand what we need from a law-enforcement aspect to investigate cybercrime. And they can help us in that arena. And now we have an open flow or open dialogue we didn't have before because we didn't have a contact there.

They'll go out to the private sector, and they'll come back to government and back out to the private sector. Nothing wrong with that at all. They're gaining experience and they're bringing that experience wherever they go. And if they bring it back to us in law enforcement or they help us when they're on the private side, that only helps us.

Bank Regulators Warn of Big Risks

WASHINGTON—A group of powerful bank regulators on Tuesday highlighted what they said were a litany of risks stemming from cryptocurrencies and expressed skepticism that the assets can be safely held by the financial institutions they oversee.

The Federal Reserve, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency said that recent failures of major crypto firms led the regulators to exercise caution in reviewing banks' proposals to engage with the market. They highlighted fraud and scams, market volatility, legal uncertainty, and weak risk-management and governance practices at crypto firms, among other things, as reasons for concern.

"It is important that risks related to the crypto-asset sector that cannot be mitigated or controlled do not migrate to the banking system," the regulators said in a joint statement. Based on their experience, they said, issuing or holding cryptocurrencies "is highly likely to be inconsistent with safe and sound banking practices."

—Paul Kiernan

Fintech Shares Trail

Continued from page B1

Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund, which tracks the financial sector of the S&P 500, and the 33% drop in the Nasdaq Composite Index.

Other fintech-focused funds and indexes performed even more poorly. Fund manager Cathie Wood's ARK Fintech Innovation ETF, whose top holdings include **Shopify** Inc., Block Inc. and **Coinbase Global** Inc., fell 65% in 2022. The F-Prime Fintech Index, which aims to "track the performance of disruptive fintech companies," is down 71% through late December. Six of the 60 companies in the index—**Affirm Holdings** Inc.; Dave Inc.; **Doma Holdings** Inc.; **Opendoor Technologies** Inc.; Root Inc. and **Upstart Holdings** Inc.—fell more than 90% in 2022.

All manner of high-growth tech stocks sold off in 2022 after the Federal Reserve began hiking interest rates to fight inflation. Higher rates give investors more options for where to put their money for steady returns, making them less willing to take a risk on tech stocks that promise growth.

But higher rates posed an additional challenge for balance-sheet-heavy fintech firms. Lenders Affirm and Upstart rely on banks and money managers to fund the loans they make to borrowers. Nontraditional consumer lenders are now paying more to borrow money, which is squeezing their margins and even putting some smaller players out of business.

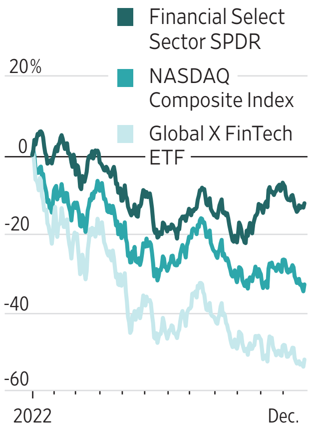
Many fintech companies also mistook the cyclical boosts they enjoyed during the pandemic for permanent shifts. **PayPal Holdings** Inc. and Shopify wrongly bet that the elevated online-shopping volumes they enjoyed in 2020 and 2021 would endure, forcing them to slash expenses when in-store shopping made a comeback the following year. **Robinhood Markets** Inc. hired more than a thousand extra employees in 2021 to keep up with trading volumes that it expected to remain high, only to have to lay off many of them when investor interest waned.

Many of the once-highflying fintech upstarts also are losing money, which no longer sits well with investors.

"Investors are increasingly wary of high-growth but unprofitable business models, and over the last several quarters high-growth firms across our coverage have been increasingly giving priority to profitability improvement in their actions and commentary," wrote Eugene Simuni, an analyst at MoffettNathanson who covers fintech, in a research note in December.

Mr. Simuni said that only one high-growth fintech company he follows has been consistently profitable, **Shift4 Payments** Inc. The company, which processes payments for businesses and merchants, fell just 3% in 2022.

Fintech firms underperformed both financial and tech stocks in 2022.



Source: FactSet

Not Guilty Is Plea in FTX Case

Continued from page B1

funded by Alameda, prosecutors said.

Mr. Bankman-Fried has previously said he didn't intend to commit fraud but has acknowledged making mistakes while running the company.

The former chief executive, who is being detained at his parents' California home but returned to New York for the hearing, sat at the defense table between his lawyers, who entered the plea on his behalf. Assistant U.S. Attorney Danielle Sassoon told the judge the October trial would last about four weeks, while Mark Cohen, a lawyer for Mr. Bankman-Fried, estimated it would last from two to three weeks.

Judge Kaplan set the next court hearing for May 18.

Two of Mr. Bankman-Fried's associates, Caroline Ellison and Gary Wang, pleaded guilty to related charges last month and are cooperating with prosecutors' investigation into the alleged scheme. Damian Williams, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said on Tuesday that his office had formed an FTX task force, drawing on prosecutors from multiple units, including those focused on securities fraud, public corruption and money laundering. Mr. Williams said his office "is working around the clock to respond to the implosion of FTX."

JANE ROSENBERG/REUTERS

Sam Bankman-Fried leaves New York federal court on Tuesday. His trial was set to start Oct. 2.

In December, Mr. Bankman-Fried was arrested in the Bahamas and, after consenting to extradition, flown to New York.

During his first appearance in federal court last month, a magistrate judge released him on a $250 million bond, which was secured by his parents' home in Stanford, Calif.

While Mr. Bankman-Fried wasn't required to deposit any money with the court, if he were to fail to appear in court, the government could move to seize his parents' property.

The judge required that Mr. Bankman-Fried's parents and one nonfamily member cosign the $250 million bond and that two additional people sign other bonds in lesser amounts.

In a letter Tuesday, lawyers for Mr. Bankman-Fried asked Judge Kaplan to order that the names of the sureties, or signers of the lesser bonds, not be disclosed to the public.

The lawyers said that Mr. Bankman-Fried's parents had been subjected to intense media scrutiny and threats.

"There is serious cause for concern that the two additional sureties would face similar intrusions on their privacy as well as threats and harassment if their names appear unredacted on their bonds or their identities are otherwise publicly disclosed," the letter said.

Judge Kaplan granted the request, though said he would allow members of the media or others to contest the sealing of the information.

Ms. Sassoon, the prosecutor, asked the judge to impose an additional bond condition barring Mr. Bankman-Fried from transferring or accessing FTX and Alameda assets.

Mr. Cohen said his client hadn't accessed those funds, echoing a point Mr. Bankman-Fried had made in a tweet last week.

Judge Kaplan granted prosecutors' request.

—James Fanelli contributed to this article.

Southwest Offers Points

Continued from page B1

ing a link to add the bonus points to their frequent-flier accounts.

Sean Fox, an IBM consultant based in Virginia, received a message that read: "Thank you for your patience. Your estimated wait time is 1 hour and 5 minutes. We are experiencing a high volume of traffic and using a virtual queue to limit the amount of users on the website at the same time."

Southwest spokesman Chris Mainz said Points.com, which is handling the points issuance for the airline, reported a high volume of traffic to the site to redeem the offer.

He called that "a good thing" and nothing out of the ordinary.

Mr. Mainz said Southwest expects the wait times to decrease.

Mr. Jordan calls the 25,000 Rapid Rewards points, Southwest's frequent-flier currency, a "gesture of goodwill." Families and other groups traveling together will receive 25,000 points a person.

The airline says the bonus points, which were issued to travelers whose flights were disrupted between Dec. 24 and Jan. 2, are worth more than $300. The value will vary, because Southwest's point redemptions vary based on factors including trip distance and demand.

The 25,000 points are enough, for example, for someone to go round trip from Phoenix to Maui, Hawaii, in late January, a slow vacation period. They would only cover a one-way ticket from Chicago to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., over Presidents Day weekend.

Travelers can search by points on Southwest's website.

The letter from Mr. Jordan also says that the airline is working "with great urgency" to process requests for refunds and reimbursements and to reunite fliers with their lost luggage.

3M Aims To Blunt Liabilities

Continued from page B1

3M's efforts to shield itself from liability in the earplugs litigation have hit setbacks. In July, Aearo Technologies LLC, the military-earplug developer that 3M acquired in 2008, filed for bankruptcy protection, citing the litigation. Aearo's move attempted to shift earplug-related injury claims against Aearo and 3M to bankruptcy court, where Aearo would attempt to broker a settlement deal that 3M has pledged to pay.

In August, a federal bankruptcy judge in Indianapolis refused to extend to 3M the same bankruptcy-court protection that Aearo received against the pending earplug-injury lawsuits. The ruling effectively allowed the complaints in federal district court in Florida to continue against 3M without Aearo. Aearo, which is appealing the decision, continues to pursue a settlement deal with the claimants.

Since Aearo's bankruptcy filing, 3M lawyers in the Florida federal court litigation argued that liability for the alleged injuries from the earplugs should be split between Aearo and 3M. The judge presiding over the Florida cases rebuked 3M's arguments in a Dec. 22 ruling, saying 3M assumed responsibility for the product after acquiring Aearo and had previously made no attempt to separate liability.

The judge ruled that proceedings in the cases be put on hold, pending an expected appeal of her decision

Liability claims related to chemicals called perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are still growing for 3M.

Commonly called "forever chemicals" because they take a long time to break down in the environment, the chemicals have highly durable compounds that can resist heat and repel water, grease and stains.

Research has linked exposure to some forms of the chemicals with health problems ranging from kidney and testicular cancers to thyroid disease, the Environmental Protection Agency has said.

Some analysts have predicted that eradicating PFAS chemicals could rival the efforts waged a generation ago to rid buildings and construction materials of asbestos. Some cautioned that any health impacts from using products with PFAS aren't as conclusive as with asbestos, which is widely understood to cause a specific type of cancer after prolonged exposure.

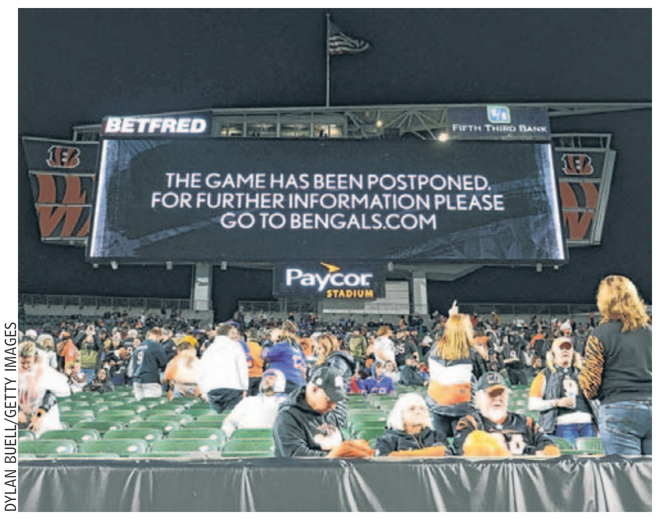
"Forever chemicals last a long time, but they're chemically inert," said Mark Gulley, who heads a chemical industry consulting firm. "Scientists have to be able to define why they're a problem."

About 20 years ago, 3M quit making two varieties of PFAS chemicals that are often linked to health concerns. Before 3M discontinued production of the two chemicals, it sold them to other companies for use in their products, potentially exposing 3M to litigation and cleanup expenses incurred by other companies, analysts have said.

While the company continued to make other varieties of PFAS chemicals that 3M has said are safe, the company said Dec. 20 that it would wind down its production of those chemicals by the end of 2025, citing increasing regulation and customers' interest in alternatives.

Ceasing production of the chemicals would limit 3M's exposure to liability to the chemicals that already exist, analysts said. Profit margins on the chemicals have been declining for 3M as regulations have tightened, UBS Securities wrote in a note to investors.

3M estimated its current annual sales of PFAS chemicals at about $1.3 billion, or about 4% of total sales, according to analyst estimates. Nigel Coe, an analyst for Wolfe Research, said exiting the business would be relatively immaterial for 3M, but is a "reminder of long-tail PFAS remediation and compensation risks."



DYLAN BUELL/GETTY IMAGES

The game between Buffalo and Cincinnati was highly anticipated.

Bets on NFL Game Voided After Injury Brings Suspension

By Katherine Sayre

Sports-betting operators said Tuesday that wagers on Monday night's high-profile football game between the Cincinnati Bengals and the Buffalo Bills will be voided and customer betting accounts will be refunded.

The announcements came after the National Football League said Tuesday the postponed game won't resume this week. The highly anticipated matchup in Cincinnati was stopped after Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered a cardiac arrest after a tackle.

Buffalo's Damar Hamlin remained in critical condition after collapsing.

"Monday Night Football" is a popular game for making bets as the only NFL game of the night following a busy lineup of Sunday matchups. The Bengals-Bills game in particular had been highly anticipated, featuring two Super Bowl favorites competing for a top playoff seed.

Companies including **FanDuel Group**, **Caesars Entertainment** Inc., **DraftKings** Inc. and BetMGM announced that all pending wagers on the game would be voided. The betting operators said they were waiting for an official NFL ruling on the status of the game before making their decisions on how to proceed.

A spokesman for FanDuel said the company's rules and various state regulations mandate that bets be voided because the game won't be resumed within the week.

The companies didn't disclose the total value of the bets being refunded.

BetMGM said Tuesday that customers would receive refunds back into their accounts—including refunds of cash wagers, free bets and site credits—within 24 hours. BetMGM is a partnership between **MGM Resorts International** and **Entain** PLC.

Hamlin received CPR after collapsing on the field and was taken by ambulance to a hospital. He remained in critical condition Tuesday, according to the Bills.

The NFL said it hadn't made a decision on "the possible resumption of the game at a later date."

Twitter to Allow the Return Of Political Advertisements

Company eases policy on cause-based promotions, as Musk continues his overhaul

By Meghan Bobrowsky

CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS

Twitter largely banned political ads in November 2019, taking the opposite approach of Facebook.

Twitter Inc. plans to expand the political advertisements it allows on the social-media platform after banning most of them in 2019, in the latest policy change by new owner Elon Musk.

The company also said Tuesday that it is relaxing its policy for cause-based ads in the U.S., which are ads that call for people to take action, educate and raise awareness in connection with the following categories: civic engagement, economic growth, environmental stewardship or social-equity causes.

In the coming weeks, the company said it would "align our advertising policy with that of TV and other media outlets," according to tweets from the Twitter Safety account. It didn't specify what that means and said it would "share more details as this work progresses." Twitter didn't respond to a request for comment.

Twitter largely banned political ads in November 2019, taking the opposite approach of social-media competitor Facebook at the time. Jack Dorsey, who was then chief executive of Twitter, said of the decision: "We believe political message reach should be earned, not bought."

The policy came with some exceptions that allowed for ads in support of certain politics-related topics such as voter registration. At the time, political advertising represented only a small portion of Twitter's overall advertising revenue.

Advertising in general has been a heated topic since Mr. Musk completed his $44 billion takeover of the company in October. Like many social-media companies, most of Twitter's revenue comes from advertising—in 2021, roughly 89% of the $5.1 billion that the business brought in was from ads.

Some companies paused ad spending on the platform after the takeover amid uncertainty over how Mr. Musk planned to run the company.

Mr. Musk tried to assuage concerns from advertisers, tweeting in a note to them, "Twitter obviously cannot become a free-for-all hellscape, where anything can be said with no consequences!" He also begun to meet with top advertising executives and offered to meet with clients directly.

But as of Dec. 18, about 70% of Twitter's top 100 ad spenders from before the takeover weren't spending on the platform, according to an analysis of data from research firm Pathmatics.

"Twitter's decision today is a clear win for free speech, but it remains to be seen how impactful it will be to the company's bottom line," said Reid Vineis, vice president at political ad agency Majority Strategies, which serves Republicans.

Nathaniel Kronisch, CEO of Buying Time Digital, an ad agency buying ads for Democrats, said: "We welcome any tool to communicate with voters so in that sense it's a positive development. For the short term we are definitely taking a wait-and-see approach."

—Patience Haggin contributed to this article.

EV Startup Rivian Missed 2022 Target

By Sean McLain

Rivian Automotive Inc. fell short of its 25,000-vehicle production target for 2022, capping a challenging year for the electric-truck startup.

Rivian said in a regulatory filing that it produced 10,020 completed vehicles in the final three months of 2022, bringing its total for the year to 24,337. The company delivered 20,332 of those vehicles to customers.

In an email to employees, Chief Executive RJ Scaringe said more than 700 vehicles were awaiting parts or other work to be completed at year-end.

In his email, Mr. Scaringe blamed a global supply-chain crisis for the company's missed production target.

Supply-chain issues forced Rivian's sole factory in Normal, Ill., to close for 20 days this past year, and shut down early for an additional 50 days, he wrote.

Investors had been closely watching the young company's 25,000-vehicle goal. Rivian began production of its first model, the R1T pickup truck in late 2021, amid a period of global shortages and supply-chain disruptions.

It also is building a sport-utility vehicle, the R1S, as well as an electric delivery van for **Amazon.com** Inc., which is also a major investor.

The company sought to prove to investors that it could mass-produce its vehicles and deliver them to more than 100,000 preorder customers. Early in 2022, it cut its production forecast for the year to 25,000, from 50,000.

The Irvine, Calif.-based Rivian reported a net loss of $5 billion for the first nine months last year, as it worked to spool up output at the Normal factory and was hit by rising raw-material costs.

Company executives have blamed some of its losses on inefficiencies connected to running a car factory at less than full capacity.

The plant has the capacity to eventually produce around 150,000 vehicles a year, the company has said.

Nvidia and Foxconn Join Forces on Electric Vehicles

By Sabela Ojea

Graphics chip maker **Nvidia** Corp. is partnering with electronics-component maker **Foxconn Technology Group** on electric vehicles, as both tech companies continue to push into the booming market.

The two companies on Tuesday announced the partnership, in which Foxconn, a contract manufacturer best known for its work on **Apple** Inc. products, would produce electronic control units based on Nvidia's Drive Orin system-on-a-chip, the central computer for intelligent automobiles.

Foxconn, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., said that its manufactured electric vehicles will use Nvidia's electronic control units and sensors that enable highly automated driving.

The partnership will allow both companies to help the industry meet growing market demand for electric vehicles while increasing their presence in the market.

The U.S. auto industry is in the midst of one of its biggest factory-building booms in years, fueled largely by the shift to electric vehicles, among other trends.

The global auto industry plans to spend a collective $526 billion on electric vehicles through 2026, according to consulting firm AlixPartners.

With the agreement, Taipei-based Foxconn aims to speed up its ability to make electric vehicles and cut costs, while Santa Clara, Calif.-based Nvidia looks to boost manufacturing of its components. Six months ago, Foxconn started building its first electric-car battery plant in Taiwan.

Foxconn has made other recent moves into the electric-vehicle space. In November, Foxconn entered into a joint venture with Saudi Arabia's sovereign-wealth fund to manufacture electric vehicles to help the Middle East country diversify its economy away from oil.

Foxconn also in November said it would invest $170 million in **Lordstown Motors** Corp., an EV startup that is building its first all-electric pickup truck at a former **General Motors** Co. plant in Ohio. Foxconn and Lordstown Motors are planning to jointly develop their first electric vehicle together.

Nvidia, meanwhile, has long supplied hardware to run infotainment systems in cars. It is now increasingly betting on software and chips that underpin sophisticated driver-assistance systems.

Mercedes-Benz Group AG recently tapped Nvidia's platform for its EV production.

Blackstone's BREIT to Get $4 Billion Boost From University of California

By Miriam Gottfried

JOSE A. ALVARADO JR. FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Blackstone President Jonathan Gray said the investment came about as a result of a TV interview he did about BREIT.

The University of California is putting $4 billion into a **Blackstone** Inc. real-estate vehicle aimed at individual investors, providing crucial ballast for a fund that has been beset by a wave of redemptions.

The investment will come in the form of common equity in **Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust** Inc., known as BREIT, and will be subject to the same fees and terms the vehicle's other shareholders get, Blackstone executives said. The typical BREIT investor has the option to sell shares monthly, but University of California manager UC Investments will effectively be committing to hold its shares for six years.

As part of the agreement, UC Investments will put its BREIT shares into a strategic venture to which Blackstone will contribute $1 billion of BREIT shares that it already owns. The venture will have an 11.25% hurdle rate, meaning that if BREIT's net annualized return exceeds that rate, Blackstone will get an extra 5% incentive fee. If the vehicle's performance falls short of the 11.25% rate, Blackstone will make up the difference up to its $1 billion commitment.

BREIT has posted 12.7% net annualized returns since inception.

Blackstone is hoping the announcement will help put to rest doubts about the stability of BREIT, a $68 billion non-traded real-estate investment trust that has been one of its biggest growth engines in recent years. It has helped the private-equity firm attract a new class of investors who might not be wealthy enough to invest in its traditional funds but want access to private assets.

Shares of Blackstone have fallen about 19% since BREIT said Dec. 1 that it was limiting withdrawals because redemption requests had exceeded certain internal thresholds, wiping out some $20 billion market value.

Blackstone has said the wave of redemption requests kicked off in Asia after the Chinese stock market fell. Other investors have since followed suit, propelled by a concern that BREIT will have to mark down its portfolio following interest-rate increases by the Federal Reserve and big declines in the market values of comparable public REITs.

The firm said that redemption requests as a percentage of BREIT's total capital were 3% in the U.S. and 5% overall in December.

Blackstone President Jonathan Gray said the investment came about as a result of a TV interview he did about BREIT on Dec. 8. Mr. Gray's comments prompted UC Chief Investment Officer Jagdeep Bachher, who has a longstanding relationship with the firm, to contact Blackstone to ask if there was a way to work together. Mr. Gray said Mr. Bachher and his team did a significant amount of due diligence before committing to the deal, crisscrossing the country to meet with the heads of all of BREIT's portfolio companies.

"We think it's a massive affirmation of the quality of the portfolio," Mr. Gray said. "Unlike others who had been focused on short-term flows, they looked under the hood."

He said the deal gives UC Investments access to the kind of real estate they want to own—multifamily rental housing, including student housing, in the fast-growing Sunbelt region and warehouses used in e-commerce—in one fell swoop.

Blackstone executives said the firm will profit on its $1 billion investment if BREIT's net annualized return exceeds 8.7%, thanks to management and incentive fees. After the UC Investments deal, BREIT will have about $14 billion in liquidity.

Global Tech Expo Finds Startups in a Crunch

By Dalvin Brown

It has been a hard few years for smaller gadget startups. It isn't likely to get easier soon.

Last year, the buzz from the CES global tech show in Las Vegas was a futuristic sound system poised to disrupt the audio industry. Created by an Israeli startup, the device used camera-powered head tracking and sophisticated acoustic engineering to beam sound directly to the ears of the listener, and nobody else.

The product made various publications' Best of CES lists, including ours. It eclipsed its Kickstarter fundraising goal, received dozens of preorders and raised millions of dollars in funding from investors, said its creators. The $800 devices were supposed to start shipping to customers last March.

But they never did—and maybe never will.

"One of our investors filed for bankruptcy. The business spiraled and went bust. We had a hard time securing enough funding to continue," said Tomer Shani, co-founder of Noveto. The company is sending one executive to CES this year with one of its last working prototypes, searching for opportunities to start over, he added.

It isn't unusual for companies to show products at CES that never make it to market. It is also typically harder for hardware startups than software companies to get funding, since they build physical products that must be manufactured and distributed.

Those barriers are just the start this year.

There is rising economic uncertainty and interest rates. Covid 19-related issues in China have complicated access to parts and manufacturing. Meanwhile, venture-capital funding in the third quarter of 2022 dropped more than 50% from a year earlier, according to data from the startup-tracking firm Crunchbase.

Entrepreneurs will have a harder time borrowing money, and established businesses will miss opportunities to reach new customers if, to stay alive, they have to slash their advertising budgets, say analysts.

Opportunities to develop competitive products still exist. Some of the best-known companies, such as Microsoft Corp., iRobot Corp., Uber Technologies Inc. and Airbnb Inc., were founded during economic downturns. And the annual CES megashow tends to be where smaller hardware startups make connections vital to their progress. But given 2023's uncertain prospects, it could be a while before the next wave of startups unveil gadgets we can't live without.

In a typical prepandemic year, about 200,000 attendees converged at CES in Las Vegas. The show went fully virtual in 2021, and last year's gathering attracted 44,000 people. This week, the Consumer Technology Association, which organizes CES, said it expects 100,000 attendees. The show floor opens Wednesday.

Among the exhibitors, the CTA anticipates about 1,050 startups, which often showcase the most unusual items. That is down from more than 1,300 startups that it says attended in 2020.

Consultants and investors expect to see familiar items on the show floor, perhaps with slight updates, and fewer of the leading-edge, sometimes absurd, products that get us to stop and gawk.

"It's best for companies to avoid pie-in-the-sky announcements this year," said Carolina Milanesi, president of the technology-consulting agency Creative Strategies. "No one wants to invest in that right now."

German startup Plankpad, which makes fitness-videogame products, was considering exhibiting new versions of its balance board at CES but decided to shift launch plans to 2024. "Hopefully by then, the industry will be over all the bad news," said the company's chief strategist, David Cervenka.

Policy makers have their eyes on big tech companies' dominance, so founders hoping to sell out to a large firm potentially no longer have that as a viable exit strategy, analysts say. More startups might look to build businesses by joining with others, and use CES to announce new collaborations, according to Shawn DuBravac, chief economist at the market-research firm IPC.

Some companies are adjusting to the new consumer landscape by downsizing their creations. The startup Color +Light is bringing a mini version of Fluora, its LED house plant, to CES. The new device is $200 cheaper than the original.

Others feel pressure to raise prices. The German startup Steambox is developing a lunchbox that heats food with steam. It was forced to source new materials for its product after a manufacturing partner in China pulled out. In its scramble to recover, its production costs rose by 20%, say its founders.

They hoped to ship it in 2020 for $169. The product just began shipping for $269.

The Steambox founders plan to use CES 2023 to find U.S. retail partnerships. Amit Jaura, co-founder of Steambox, said the company "had to raise prices or the business wouldn't work." He added that it would offer free shipping to offset some of the added cost.

YONHAP NEWS/NEWSCOM/ZUMA PRESS

The CES tech show starts in Las Vegas Thursday as many products are failing to make it to market.

Microsoft Staff to Form Company's First U.S. Union

By Sarah E. Needleman

A group of **Microsoft** Corp. employees has voted to form the software company's first labor union in the U.S., marking the latest example of workers from top tech companies organizing in recent years.

The group comprises about 300 quality-assurance testers in Microsoft's ZeniMax videogame unit, the Communications Workers of America, which is representing it, said on Tuesday. Just a handful of U.S.-based unions exist in the videogame industry.

"We look forward to engaging in good faith negotiations as we work towards a collective bargaining agreement," a spokeswoman for Microsoft and ZeniMax said.

In June, Microsoft said it was open to working with any labor unions that want to organize within its workforce, making it an outlier in the tech industry. Last year Amazon.com Inc. contested workers' efforts to unionize. Microsoft has said it would support workers at Activision Blizzard Inc. who organized last year should its $75 billion deal for the "Call of Duty" developer close.

"Microsoft has lived up to its commitment to its workers and let them decide for themselves whether they want a union," CWA President Chris Shelton said. "Other videogame and tech giants have made a conscious choice to attack, undermine, and demoralize their own employees when they join together to form a union."

Microsoft announced plans to buy Activision a year ago for $75 billion. Last month, the Federal Trade Commission sued to block the deal, saying it would harm competition in the videogame industry. The Redmond, Wash.-based company, which values the transaction at $68.7 billion after adjusting for Activision's net cash, has argued it would do the opposite.

The Activision deal would be Microsoft's largest ever. It bought ZeniMax, the company behind hit franchises such as "Doom," "The Elder Scrolls" and "Fallout," in 2021 for $7.5 billion.

Microsoft owns around two dozen studios today and makes Xbox gaming consoles.

Microsoft shares, which are down around 30% over the past 12 months, were little changed after the news on Tuesday.

In addition to Amazon and Activision, other big companies where new groups of workers have recently voted to carry union cards include Apple Inc., Starbucks Corp., Trader Joe's, Recreational Equipment Inc. and Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc.

For the 12-month period ended Sept. 30, more than 2,500 union representation petitions were filed with the National Labor Relations Board—a 53% increase from the prior year and the most since 2016.

Companies To Boost Cyber Oversight

By Catherine Stupp And Kim S. Nash

Corporate boards and cybersecurity leaders are expected to collaborate more closely in the coming year to comply with new regulations and relentless attacks from hackers looking to steal data and disrupt business operations.

The war in Ukraine, which is stretching both Russian and Ukrainian resources, further elevates cyber risks and remains high on corporate agendas.

In many companies, the role of cybersecurity officers was elevated at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic when businesses quickly shifted to remote work and the volume of cyberattacks grew, said Lucia Milica, global resident chief information security officer at cybersecurity firm Proofpoint Inc. "It was sort of this 'a-ha' moment for a lot of boards," she said.

In 2023, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to complete a proposal to require companies to disclose details about cybersecurity oversight and attacks, including which board members have security expertise. Those rules are "going to focus a lot on increasing board responsibilities," said Patrick Gaul, executive director of the National Technology Security Coalition, an advocacy group for chief information security officers, or CISOs.

Businesses have received repeated warnings from U.S. government agencies about risks to companies after Russia's invasion of Ukraine nearly one year ago. There haven't been any destructive cyberattacks on American companies disclosed in connection to the war, but many CISOs remain wary, Mr. Gaul said. Members discussed the war during several roundtable discussions the coalition held in 2022, he said.

Grain Prices Set for More Volatility

Outlook hinges, in part, on the war in Ukraine for which there is no end in sight

By Kirk Maltais

MAXYM MARUSENKO/NURPHOTO/ZUMA PRESS

Grain futures shot up to historic levels in the early days of the Russia-Ukraine war but have since given back some of those gains.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent U.S. grain futures soaring early in 2022 before their recent retreat. The new year promises to be another volatile one.

Futures for wheat and soybeans reached records in 2022, and corn futures notched their highest level in more than a decade. The war stifled supply, and so did dry weather in many crop-growing areas.

Now, grain prices have fallen close to where they started 2022. The decline tracks with an overall easing of prices for commodities from natural gas to cotton and lumber, which have slipped in recent months after surging. More interest-rate boosts by the Federal Reserve and other central banks to cool economies—a process many analysts say could result in at least a modest recession in 2023—are expected to keep a lid on demand.

For grain prices, the outlook is uncertain, in part because they hinge so much on a war for which no end seems to be in sight. Russia's February invasion jammed up grain exports out of the Black Sea region and led to a standoff between Russia and Western nations over Russia's energy exports, sending ripples through the global economy.

An agreement reached in July allowed for the safe passage of grain from war-torn Ukrainian ports, freeing up millions of tons of food products. In November, both sides extended the agreement for another 120 days. Still, the deal is fragile.

Russia briefly backed out in October and continues to attack Ukrainian port cities. Ukraine's grain exports remain below levels before the war began, according to data from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

"The wild card for grains is the Russia-Ukraine shipping deal and its survivability," said commodities analyst Jim Wyckoff. "It's a shaky situation that grain traders will continue to monitor very closely."

Western countries including the U.S. recently put price caps on international sales of Russian crude, a move to strike at the Kremlin's war spending. Russia said last week that it wouldn't sell oil or petroleum products to those countries.

Movements in crude-oil prices influence agricultural futures because demand for U.S. corn and soybeans stems in part from renewable fuels. Corn is the key ingredient for producing ethanol, while soybean oil is a vegetable oil used for the production of biofuels. Higher oil prices make producing such fuels more attractive, stimulating demand for the underlying grain.

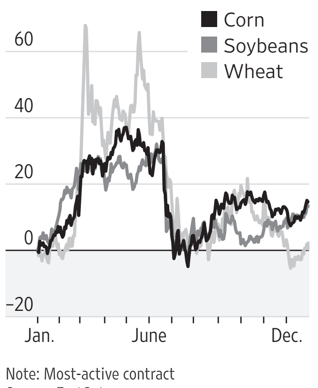
Grain futures shot up to historic levels in the early days of the Russia-Ukraine war. Most-active wheat futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade rose to a record of $12.94 a bushel in March, beating the previous high set in 2008. Soybean futures also found their record, increasing to $17.69 a bushel in June. Corn futures climbed to $8.14 a bushel in April, the highest they have been since 2012.

Futures have since given back some of those gains. On Tuesday, corn futures closed down 0.9% at $6.71 a bushel, soybeans closed down 1.9% at $14.92 a bushel, and wheat closed down 1.6% at $7.79 a bushel.

Some analysts are betting that prices for grain and other commodities will slip in 2023 as interest rates continue to rise.

"We think most commodity prices will ease back in early 2023, at the height of the global recession and monetary tightening in many major economies," said Caroline Bain, chief commodities economist with London-based Capital Economics, in a note published in December.

CBOT agricultural futures performance in 2022



Note: Most-active contract
Source: FactSet

China, the world's leading grain consumer, also will affect the outlook for agricultural futures in 2023. The country recently said it would rescind its strict measures to control the spread of Covid-19.

"China should see a period of significant economic growth in 2023, but that is expected to be capped in the first half of the year by rapidly spreading Covid," said Arlan Suderman, chief commodities economist with StoneX Group.

However, farmers also are contending with higher operational costs, including for fertilizer and farm equipment, and that might keep grain prices elevated.

"Grains tend to trade at or near their cost of production, but historically seldom trade below production cost," said Jake Hanley, managing director and senior portfolio specialist with Teucrium Trading, which manages agricultural ETFs.

Prices for fertilizer components such as urea have pulled back from records earlier in 2022, but remain well above the five-year average, according to data from commodities research firm DTN.

Prices for natural gas, another raw material for fertilizer, have fallen sharply over the past month, but they are still up from a year ago.

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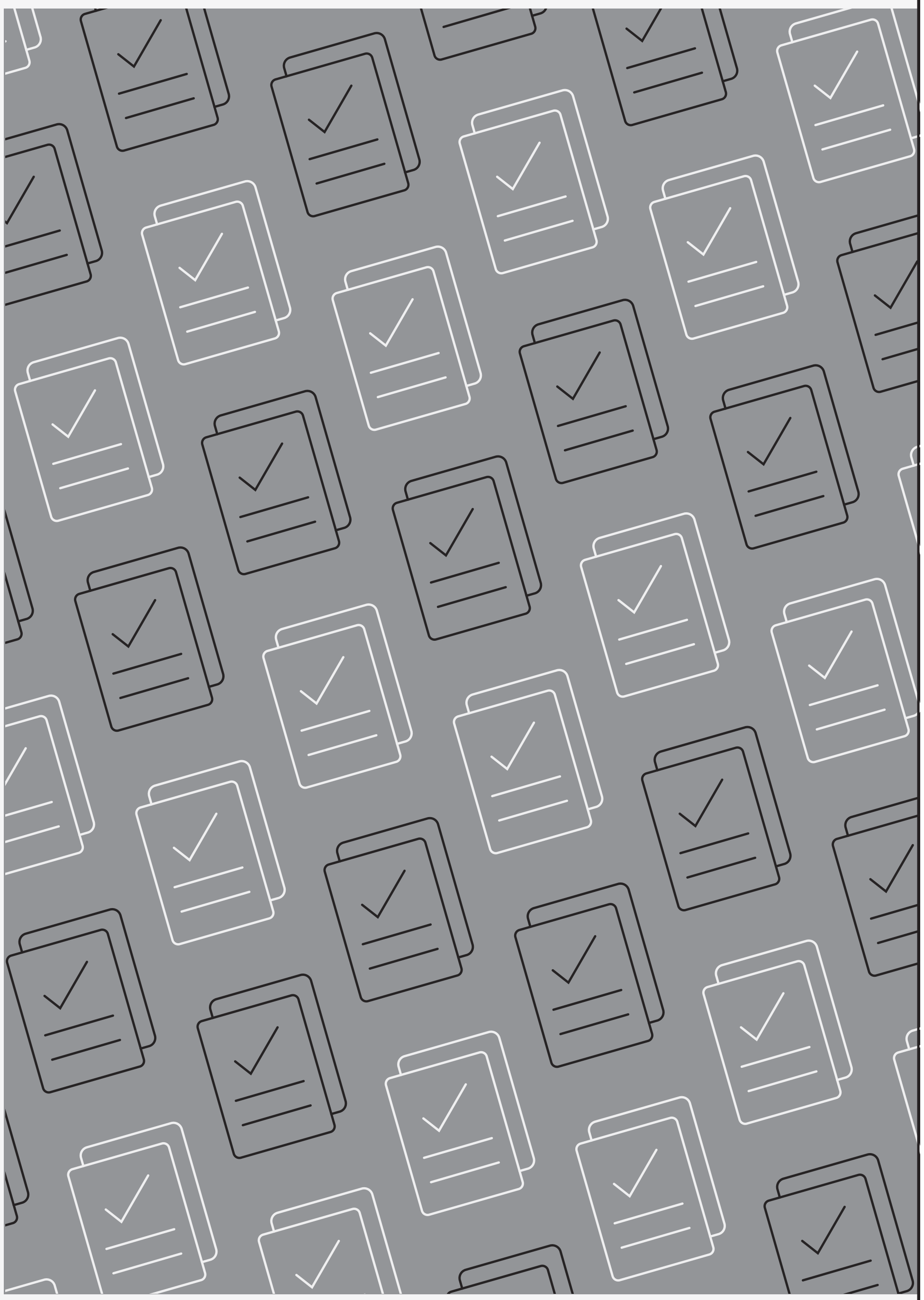

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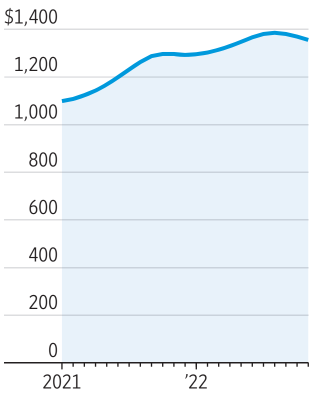
THE PROPERTY REPORT

Apartment Rents' Growth Slows Down

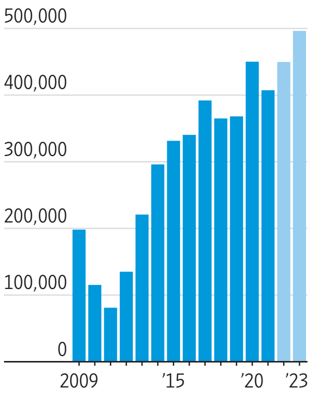
Tenant pullback on spending, new supply are expected to moderate increases

By Will Parker

National apartment median rent estimates, monthly*



Completed new construction apartments†



*Data are through Nov. 2022 †2022 and 2023 are forecasts
Sources: Apartment List (rent); CoStar (new construction)

OCTAVIO JONES FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Demand for housing exploded during the pandemic, but the boom has faded. A complex in Tampa, Fla.

The pandemic boom for multifamily building owners is fading fast going into 2023.

Apartment vacancies are piling up. The biggest wave of new rental buildings in nearly four decades is expected to cut the pace of rent growth across the country. Some in-demand Sunbelt cities are already experiencing rent declines, in part because many tenants and people searching for apartments feel they can't devote any more of income to rent. Rising interest rates, meanwhile, make rental-property investments less profitable than one year ago when debt was cheap and hefty rent increases were taken for granted.

"We're necessarily going to get a bit of a pullback," said Thomas LaSalvia, senior economist at Moody's Analytics.

Lower rent growth would help curb general inflation while bringing relief to many tenants whose wages already weren't keeping pace with rents. Of the 44 million households that rent, more than 19 million spent 30% or more of their income on rent and other housing costs, according to a December report from the U.S. Census Bureau that estimated spending from 2017 to 2021.

The reversal comes after an unprecedented run for the apartment and home rental industry that most housing economists say was shaped by the pandemic.

Early lockdowns created pent-up demand for housing that exploded in the months after the introduction of Covid-19 vaccines in late 2020. Many young people went out to rent their first home, and the sudden increase in people searching for apartments helped rents climb 25% over two years.

In particular, well-paid workers from the Northeast decamped for growing cities in the Sunbelt, where they could work remotely and where their higher incomes commanded more space.

Now, many of those same places that shot up in price are seeing slides in demand and rents are going down. Between April and October 2022, rents fell 3% in Las Vegas, 2% in Phoenix and 1% in Tampa, Fla., according to Apartment List. All three of those cities saw rents rise more than 30% during the preceding two years.

If migration and new household formation continue to slow, analysts said some markets could see a full 12 months of negative rent growth starting sometime this year.

Meanwhile, nearly half a million new apartment units—the most of any year since 1986—are expected to complete construction by the end of 2023. That will come after more than 400,000 units were completed during 2022, according to an analysis by property-data firm CoStar Group Inc. The addition of so many new apartments to slowing housing markets is expected to help keep a lid on rent growth.

Some cities with higher than average construction activity could even see full year rent declines, said Jeff Adler, vice president in the data division of property technology company Yardi Systems Inc. He cited Miami, Austin, Texas, and Raleigh, N.C., as places with an especially large amount of new supply expected to open this year.

The coming increase in new apartments is most likely to affect rents at higher-end buildings, because there might not be enough people who make enough money to rent them, according to CoStar.

"The potential demand for newly developed [high-end] properties remains dependent on an expanding pool of high income renter households only," CoStar said.

Amid rising concerns of a recession, many housing economists don't think job and wage growth will be strong enough to sustain much in the way of rent increases this year. Both Yardi and Moody's expect rents to rise about 3% nationally during the next 12 months, less than half the rate seen in 2022.

"When you look at real wages, you saw that they were pretty darn stagnant for the last year or two years," Mr. LaSalvia said.

Some tailwinds remain for the rental sector, however. Higher mortgage interest rates and high home-sales prices mean fewer people can buy their first home, bolstering demand for rental houses and apartments. Despite the expected increase in new rental buildings, most analysts think the majority of cities will remain undersupplied with the kind of affordable units that see the highest demand. Such factors should help keep vacancies from rising too much and keep rents from going negative in most cities, analysts said.

If there is a recession, history shows that the rental sector handles bear markets better than other parts of the economy, where consumers are more likely to cut back their spending.

"Rent eats first," Mr. LaSalvia said.

Even so, investors are adjusting their expectations to the more challenging environment.

"In 2021 and into early 2022 you could raise rents significantly without doing a lot to the property itself," said Karlin Conklin, principal of apartment landlord Investors Management Group, which owns buildings in the Sunbelt and on the West Coast. "We don't see that happening going forward."

New York City Hotel Owners Remain Cautious

By Kate King

FRANCESCO TONELLI/THE MARK HOTEL

The Mark Hotel and others have logged a robust recovery from the pandemic, but recession fears still have the city's hoteliers nervous.

New York City hotel owners are toasting a year that showed signs of a sustained recovery from the pandemic, but the prospect of a possible economic downturn is damping further celebrations.

New York and other urban hotels were among the hardest hit early on during the Covid-19 pandemic, when travelers sought warm-weather resorts over crowded cities and business travel collapsed.

Now, New York hotels are seeing a turnaround, according to lodging owners and industry analysts. Strong demand from leisure travelers boosted New York room rates well above prepandemic levels during the 2022 holiday season even as occupancy remains lower. Revenue per available room, a widely used industry metric, exceeded 2019 for three out of five weeks following Thanksgiving, according to hotel data-and-analytics firm STR.

Group and business travel started picking up in the second half of the year, and hotel owners are reporting solid bookings heading into 2023. Overall demand for New York hotels improved in 2022 but remained below 2019 levels by about 16% based on the total number of rooms sold as of Dec. 24, according to STR.

"Things, at least where we sit, look OK," said Richard Born, whose company BD Hotels owns two dozen properties across the city. But wary that strong leisure demand might moderate and economic and geopolitical turmoil may undermine travel plans, he added, "Everybody's sort of walking on eggshells a little bit."

There are plenty of reasons beyond the economy and layoffs for hotelier caution. Rising interest rates are cutting into the profits of hotel owners with floating-rate debt. Inflation leaves Americans with less money for discretionary spending such as travel. The war in Ukraine and a strong dollar make travel to the U.S. more difficult and expensive for Europeans, while travelers from recently reopened China face Covid-19 testing requirements to enter the country.

Still, New York's hotel industry is in a much better position now than a year ago, when the Omicron variant sank hopes for the holiday season and prompted widespread cancellations in the first few months of 2022. Some owners say recent business is booming.

Mitchell Hochberg, president of the real-estate company **Lightstone** and owner of four of **Marriott International** Inc.'s Moxy brand hotels, said Covid concerns largely evaporated in 2022. Financial, entertainment and technology companies booked dozens of holiday parties in 2022 that involved renting out the entire space at Lightstone's Moxy restaurants, clubs and rooftop bars, he said, and rooms for New Year's Eve were selling at prices 50% higher than in 2019.

"The holiday season has been the strongest two-week stretch in the history of the portfolio," Mr. Hochberg said.

Business travel is still slower than prepandemic but has started picking up steam. Corporate guests from the finance and technology sectors are booking rooms a month or two in advance, Mr. Hochberg said, with no signs of pullback despite the economic pressures facing both industries.

Luxury hotels performed particularly well. The Mark Hotel on the Upper East Side reported its strongest year on record from a revenue perspective in 2022, even as occupancy hovers below 2019 levels. Owner Izak Senbahar said his clientele, which includes people in the fashion and film industries as well as high-end business and European travelers, haven't balked at rising prices since the pandemic. The Mark's average daily rate in 2022 topped $1,900, a record for the company. "It was a stellar year, really," Mr. Senbahar said.

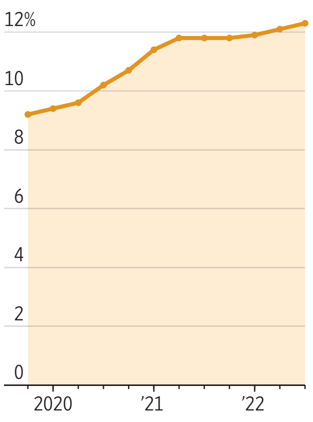
Foreign visits, historically a big part of the city's tourist activity, still haven't fully recovered. International flight bookings to New York reached 77% of prepandemic levels in November and as of Dec. 23 were on track to end December 18% lower than in 2019, according to travel-analytics company ForwardKeys. Domestic air travel to the city, by contrast, is nearly on par with prepandemic patterns.

Mr. Senbahar attributed the Mark's occupancy rate of 65% in 2022 to the slow return of luxury international travelers, but said he expects these guests to return over the coming two years.

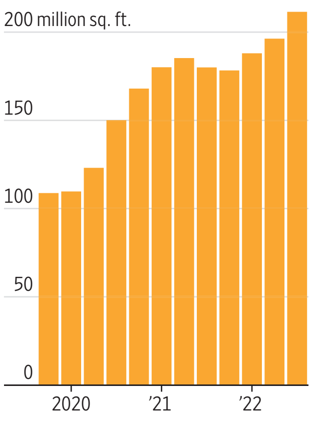
Office Landlords Hit by Remote Work Now Face Recession Risk

By Peter Grant

U.S. office vacancy rate, quarterly



Amount of sublease space available, quarterly



Source: CoStar Group

Owners of office buildings stumbled through 2022, when their holdings underperformed almost every other type of commercial real estate. Things look poised to get worse in 2023.

Landlords have been longing for employees to head back to office buildings in greater numbers. But the national return rate has crept up slowly. For the past three months, it has plateaued at about half of what it was before the pandemic.

Now, a possible recession is making the outlook for 2023 even gloomier. New business searches for new office space, after rebounding in 2021, fell in 2022 to 44% of what they were in 2018 and 2019, according to VTS, a firm that operates a data platform that tracks tenant demand.

Companies are cutting back on office space because they are in a "reduce expense mode," said Ryan Masiello, VTS's chief strategy officer and co-founder. "Everyone is starting to prepare for a pretty rough 2023."

That may make it challenging for building owners to meet their mortgage obligations, especially with the sharp increase in interest rates. The potential distress could ripple through the financial system. About $1.2 trillion of debt was backed by office buildings at the end of the second quarter, according to data firm Trepp Inc.

Total returns of shares in office real-estate investment trusts, including dividends, are down an average of 45% from February 2020, compared with a roughly 5% decline for the equity real-estate investment trust index, according to Dylan Burzinski, an analyst with real-estate analytics firm Green Street.

"Office is the worst-performing [real-estate investment trust] sector since the pandemic started," he said.

The office industry didn't suffer in the early part of the pandemic because office leases tend to be for 10 to 15 years. Even though buildings were largely empty in 2020, most tenants continued to pay rent.

But cash flow has declined as lease terms matured and corporate tenants bargained for lower rents or reduced their space. The office vacancy rate was 12.3% at the end of September, up from 9.2% at the end of 2019, according to CoStar Group Inc., which tracks 54 major U.S. markets.

About 211.8 million square feet of sublease space is now on the market, compared with 108.8 million square feet at the end of 2019, the data firm said. The amount of sublease space currently available is the highest amount ever recorded for major office markets, including during the 2008 financial crisis, CoStar said.

Part of the drag on the office sector has come from new hybrid and remote workplace strategies. Many of these plans call for workers to visit offices in the middle of the week and work remotely on Mondays and Fridays.

Since September, the average weekly return-to-office rate has plateaued just below 50% in the 10 major metro areas monitored by Kastle Systems. But in the first week of December, there was a 23.3% difference between the week's peak day and lowest day, compared with a 9% difference in the last week of January.

Even in cities where politicians have urged workers to return to their offices, some local officials may be bowing to the new reality of remote work habits. In New York, for instance, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said in December that it would start reducing subway service on Mondays and Fridays, the two least popular days for heading to the office.

It isn't all bad news: Companies such as **Salesforce** Inc., **Snap** Inc. and **Dropbox** Inc. that previously told workers they could work remotely all the time are now asking them to return to offices some days or increasing their use of in-office training, meetings and other events. And the recent past suggests some companies will use the beginning of the year to return more workers to offices. "Since the pandemic, the two biggest calendar events when there's been a step up [in return to office] have been Labor Day and New Year's," said Mark Ein, Kastle's chairman.

Mr. Ein predicted there would be another step up now that the new year has begun, then the new national average will level off again in the range of 55% to 60%.

But even as the return to office increases gradually, companies worried about the economy are slashing jobs. Much of the sublease space coming on the market is from big technology companies such as **Meta Platforms** Inc. and **Lyft** Inc. that are downsizing.

Job cuts also have started in the financial sector. **Goldman Sachs** is planning to lay off several thousand employees while **Morgan Stanley** is cutting about 2% of its global workforce.

BONDS

Tracking Bond Benchmarks

Return on investment and spreads over Treasurys and/or yields paid to investors compared with 52-week highs and lows for different types of bonds

Total return close	YTD total return (%)	Index	Yield (%) Latest	Low	High
Broad Market Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
1956.05	0.4	U.S. Aggregate	4.660	1.860	5.210
U.S. Corporate Indexes Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
2878.36	0.3	U.S. Corporate	5.390	2.440	6.130
2787.15	0.2	Intermediate	5.310	1.920	6.050
3820.56	0.7	Long term	5.550	3.260	6.370
557.63	0.4	Double-A-rated	4.760	2.150	5.320
761.35	0.3	Triple-B-rated	5.670	2.670	6.440
High Yield Bonds ICE BofA					
466.02	0.6	High Yield Constrained	8.889	4.424	9.623
422.91	0.6	Triple-C-rated	15.718	7.895	16.916
3133.82	0.7	High Yield 100	8.132	3.885	8.753
407.72	0.5	Global High Yield Constrained	8.915	4.655	9.945
310.09	0.4	Europe High Yield Constrained	7.590	2.822	8.508
U.S Agency Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
1691.79	0.2	U.S Agency	4.560	1.220	4.910
1497.20	0.1	10-20 years	4.550	1.120	4.890
3214.74	0.8	20-plus years	4.760	2.310	5.240
2536.07	0.2	Yankee	5.200	2.090	5.840

Total return close	YTD total return (%)	Index	Yield (%) Latest	Low	High
Mortgage-Backed Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices					
1943.61	0.4	Mortgage-Backed	4.710	2.070	5.380
1911.95	0.4	Ginnie Mae (GNMA)	4.810	2.110	5.370
1143.59	0.5	Fannie mae (FNMA)	4.680	2.060	5.390
1751.04	0.4	Freddie Mac (FHLMC)	4.750	2.060	5.370
558.04	0.3	Muni Master	3.243	0.928	3.936
399.20	0.3	7-12 year	2.936	0.962	3.794
443.96	0.3	12-22 year	3.787	1.208	4.428
414.58	0.6	22-plus year	4.474	1.720	5.131
Global Government J.P. Morgan†					
524.45	0.5	Global Government	3.030	1.060	3.250
767.02	0.4	Canada	3.330	1.610	3.780
336.98	1.2	EMU§	3.141	0.522	3.308
627.90	1.3	France	2.940	0.400	3.110
448.71	1.2	Germany	2.370	-0.140	2.540
277.79	n.a.	Japan	0.990	0.350	1.000
485.93	1.3	Netherlands	2.630	0.050	2.800
783.36	0.1	U.K.	3.810	1.120	4.690
771.08	0.4	Emerging Markets**	7.731	5.012	9.159

*Constrained indexes limit individual issuer concentrations to 2%; the High Yield 100 are the 100 largest bonds † In local currency § Euro-zone bonds
** EMBI Global Index
Sources: ICE Data Services; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; J.P.Morgan

Global Government Bonds: Mapping Yields

Yields and spreads over or under U.S. Treasurys on benchmark two-year and 10-year government bonds in selected other countries; arrows indicate whether the yield rose(▲) or fell (▼) in the latest session

Coupon (%)	Country/ Maturity, in years	Latest(●)	Yield (%) Previous	Month ago	Year ago	Spread Under/Over U.S. Treasurys, in basis points Latest	Prev	Year ago
4.250	U.S. 2	4.403 ▲	4.399	4.278	0.784			
4.125	10	3.791 ▼	3.826	3.502	1.628			
0.250	Australia 2	3.383 ▼	3.411	3.009	0.603	-99.1	-101.3	-17.1
1.750	10	4.017 ▼	4.061	3.399	1.681	22.8	18.2	5.0
0.000	France 2	2.863 ▼	2.902	2.117	-0.663	-151.1	-152.2	-143.6
2.000	10	2.907 ▼	2.988	2.306	0.239	-88.2	-89.1	-139.2
2.200	Germany 2	2.675 ▼	2.686	2.103	-0.605	-169	-173.7	-137.8
1.700	10	2.387 ▼	2.452	1.854	-0.120	-140.2	-142.7	-175.1
2.500	Italy 2	3.151 ▼	3.168	2.592	-0.073	-122.3	-125.5	-84.7
2.500	10	4.487 ▼	4.564	3.772	1.195	69.8	68.5	-43.6
0.005	Japan 2	0.035	0.035	-0.029	-0.097	-433.9	-438.9	-87.1
0.200	10	0.416	0.416	0.252	0.072	-337.3	-346.4	-155.9
0.000	Spain 2	2.876 ▼	2.884	2.329	-0.580	-149.8	-154.0	-135.4
2.550	10	3.450 ▼	3.529	2.876	0.578	-33.9	-35.1	-105.3
0.125	U.K. 2	3.573 ▲	3.564	3.309	0.677	-80.1	-86.0	-9.7
4.250	10	3.654 ▼	3.667	3.153	0.971	-13.5	-21.2	-66.1

Source: Tullett Prebon, Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close

Corporate Debt

Prices of firms' bonds reflect factors including investors' economic, sectoral and company-specific expectations

Investment-grade spreads that tightened the most...

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Spread*, in basis points Current	One-day change	Last week
Cooperatieve Rabobank Ua	RABOBK	3.375	4.61	May 21, '25	22	–5	n.a.
Intel	INTC	4.000	4.81	Dec. 15, '32	102	–2	111

...And spreads that widened the most

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week
Oracle	ORCL	5.800	5.10	Nov. 10, '25	71	27	75
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial	...	3.040	5.58	July 16, '29	165	23	n.a.
John Deere Capital	...	4.050	4.76	Sept. 8, '25	35	18	42
Toronto–Dominion Bank	TD	4.693	5.03	Sept. 15, '27	112	18	100
General Motors Financial	GM	6.050	5.40	Oct. 10, '25	98	16	115
HSBC Holdings	HSBC	6.500	6.85	Sept. 15, '37	307	15	311
Nomura Holdings	...	1.653	5.75	July 14, '26	157	12	n.a.
Philip Morris International	PM	5.000	4.86	Nov. 17, '25	45	12	75

High-yield issues with the biggest price increases...

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Bond Price as % of face value Current	One-day change	Last week
OneMain Finance	OMF	7.125	8.48	March 15, '26	96.250	1.10	96.813
Transocean	RIG	6.800	11.90	March 15, '38	64.500	1.04	64.000
Venture Global Calcasieu Pass	VENTGL	4.125	6.21	Aug. 15, '31	86.280	0.91	87.845
Bath & Body Works	BBWI	6.875	8.13	Nov. 1, '35	90.100	0.85	89.250
Crown Cork & Seal	...	7.375	6.34	Dec. 15, '26	103.570	0.62	103.227
Ford Motor Credit	F	4.389	6.53	Jan. 8, '26	94.250	0.59	94.125

...And with the biggest price decreases

Issuer	Symbol	Coupon (%)	Yield (%)	Maturity	Current	One-day change	Last week
American Airlines	AAL	11.750	8.39	July 15, '25	107.500	–0.25	108.030
Embarq	...	7.995	19.24	June 1, '36	46.500	–0.25	46.000
Rite Aid	RAD	7.700	36.66	Feb. 15, '27	40.750	–0.23	38.125
NatWest	NWG	6.000	5.85	Dec. 19, '23	100.134	–0.21	n.a.
CSC Holdings	CSCHLD	5.250	10.64	June 1, '24	93.125	–0.13	93.000
Telecom Italia Capital	TITIM	7.721	9.90	June 4, '38	82.910	–0.09	83.120

*Estimated spread over 2-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year or 30-year hot-run Treasury; 100 basis points=one percentage pt.; change in spread shown is for Z-spread.
Note: Data are for the most active issue of bonds with maturities of two years or more
Source: MarketAxess

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS

The following explanations apply to the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market stocks that hit a new 52-week intraday high or low in the latest session. **% CHG**-Daily percentage change from the previous trading session.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Highs

Stock	Sym	52-Wk Hi/Lo	% Chg
ADMA Biologics	ADMA	3.98	-0.3
AP Acqn A	APCA	10.36	0.4
A SPAC I Un	ASCAU	13.34	8.6
A SPAC II Un	ASCBU	10.32	1.3
AdaraAcqn	ADRA.U	10.20	1.0
AetheriumAcqn	GMFIU	10.16	0.4
AhrenAcqn	AHRN	10.26	...
AkeroTherap	AKRO	54.88	-9.7
AlamosGold	AGI	10.56	2.5
AlphaHlthIII A	ALPA	9.95	0.3
AlphaTimeAcqn	ATMCU	10.12	...
AlphaVestAcqn	ATMVU	10.13	0.1
AltC Acqn	ALCC	9.96	0.4
Amdocs	DOX	92.46	0.9
AndrettiAcqnA	WNNR	10.35	...
ApeironCapital	APN.U	10.33	0.9
ArctosNorthA	ANAC	10.12	...
Ardelyx	ARDX	2.90	-6.0
AresAcqnA	AAC	10.12	0.4
ArogoCapA	AOGO	10.19	0.6
AstriaTherap	ATXS	15.48	1.0
AtheneHldgPfd	ATHpE	25.85	-0.6
AtourLifestyle	ATAT	19.57	7.3
AultDisruptive	ADRT	10.27	0.2
AuthenticEquityA	AEAC	10.12	0.1
BGSF	BGSF	15.60	...
BK Tech	BKTI	3.48	-0.3
BancoBBVA	BBAR	4.03	-5.4
BioPlusAcqnA	BIOS	10.28	0.5
BlackSpadeA	BSAQ	10.05	0.5
BlueRiverAcqn	BLUA.U	10.10	...
BogotaFinl	BSBK	11.56	1.5
BroadCapital	BRAC	10.60	1.5
BroadCapital	BRACU	12.36	1.3
CCNeubergerIII A	PRPC	10.13	0.2
CENAQEnergyUn	CENQU	11.52	11.7
CPI Card	PMTS	38.87	4.1
CabalettaBio	CABA	10.16	1.6
CassInfoSys	CASS	46.30	-1.2
CatchaInvtA	CHAA	10.10	-0.2
Celcuity	CELC	14.40	-8.5
ChengheAcqn	CHEAU	10.32	0.4
ClimateRockA	CLRC	10.25	0.1
ColiseumAcqn	MITAU	10.08	0.4
CompassDigitalAcqn	CDAQ	10.07	-0.1
ComputeHealth	CPUH.U	10.12	0.3
ComputeHlthA	CPUH	10.12	0.2
ConcordAcqnIIA	CNDA	10.00	0.6
ConstellationI A	CSTA	10.13	0.2
CorsairPtrg	CORS.U	10.37	2.5
CresceraCapA	CREC	10.24	0.2
CrownPropA	CPTK	10.12	...
CVRx	CVRX	19.94	2.1
DeckersOutdoor	DECK	404.65	-2.5
DiamondHeadA	DHHC	10.06	0.1
elfBeauty	ELF	56.96	0.1
EmbraceChange	EMCG	10.75	0.6
EmpresaDisCom	EDN	8.75	8.4
EncompassHealth	EHC	60.74	-0.6
EpicQuestEduc	EEIQ	3.63	13.1
EverestConsolA	MNTN	10.24	0.1
EvoAcqn	EVOJU	10.53	0.3
FtacHeraA	HERA	10.12	0.1
FatProjectsAcqn	FATP	10.40	0.3
FifthWallIII A	FWAC	10.05	0.1
FirstComSC	FCCO	22.25	-1.2
FiscalNoteWt	NOTE.WS	1.43	4.1
ForestRoad II	FRXB.U	10.09	0.2
ForestRoadII A	FRXB	10.04	...
FreedomI A	FACT	10.11	...
FusionAcqnIIA	FSNB	10.06	0.1
GSRIIMeteoraA	GSRM	10.65	0.6
G Squared I	GSQD.U	10.09	0.1
GarrettMotionPfdA	GTXAP	8.97	0.7
GeneralElectricWi	GEw	66.50	3.3
GenesisUnicornA	GENQ	10.17	0.1
GesherIAcqn	GIACU	11.10	6.7
GlblBlockchain	GBBK	10.15	0.6
GlblTechAcqnI	GTAC	10.31	...
GlycoMimetics	GLYC	3.30	-4.0
GoGreenInvts	GOGN.U	10.88	0.3
GorillaTechWt	GRRRW	0.83	119.5
HNR Acqn	HNRA	10.24	0.1
HawksAcqnA	HWKZ	10.40	0.3
HorizonSpaceI	HSPOU	10.11	0.1
HudsonAcqnIRt	HUDAR	1.35	-82.4
IconicSportsA	ICNC	10.40	0.1
Immunovant	IMVT	19.60	5.6
Independence	ACQRU	10.40	3.4
IndlTechAcqnsII	ITAQU	10.20	0.2
InsightAcqnA	INAQ	10.13	...
IntegratedRailA	IRRX	10.32	-0.2
Intevac	IVAC	6.90	-1.2
InvestcorpEur I	IVCBU	11.56	1.1
iQIYI	IQ	6.25	10.9
IridiumComm	IRDM	54.91	2.7
JATT Acqn	JATT.U	10.33	0.4
JattAcqnA	JATT	10.23	0.2
JackCreekA	JCIC	10.14	-0.2
JawsMustangA	JWSM	10.13	0.1
JuniperII A	JUN	10.47	0.1
KademSustA	KSI	10.06	0.1
KensingtonCapV A	KCGI	10.21	0.1
LavaMedtech	LVAC	10.27	0.8
LFCapitalAcqnIIIUn	LFACU	10.26	0.6
LFCapAcqnIIIA	LFAC	10.29	0.3
LasVegasSands	LVS	49.78	2.6
LatAmGrowth	LATGU	10.32	0.3
LeoHldgsII A	LHC	10.14	0.2
LionElectricWt	LEV.WS.A	0.79	-7.1
LiveOakCrestA	LOCC	9.99	-0.5
MarlinTechA	FINM	10.14	...
MelcoResorts	MLCO	12.41	4.2
MitsubishiUFJ	MUFG	6.82	2.1
MontereyCapRt	MCACR	0.23	142.1
MoolecScienceWt	MLECW	1.63	41.9
MountainIAcqn	MCAAU	10.39	0.2
NaturalResPtrs	NRP	54.93	-8.6
Neuronetics	STIM	6.93	-3.9
NineEnergy	NINE	14.83	-12.0
NorthernGenIII	NGC	10.05	0.1
NovoNordisk	NVO	138.42	1.2
NubiaBrandA	NUBI	10.22	0.7
PampaEnergia	PAM	32.39	-2.5
PegasusDigA	PGSS	10.59	-0.3
PeoplesBncpNC	PEBK	33.06	-0.6
PerformantFin	PFMT	3.97	0.6
PeridotAcqnIIA	PDOT	10.12	...
PermianBasin	PBT	25.45	-11.0
PioneerMergerA	PACX	10.33	0.5
PonoCapTwoA	PTWO	10.88	0.2
PortageFintech	PFTAU	10.08	0.3
PowerSchool	PWSC	23.68	-1.8
PriveterraAcqnA	PMGM	10.06	0.1
ProventionBio	PRVB	10.88	-8.5
RMGAcqnIII A	RMGC	10.10	...
RayonierAdvMatls	RYAM	9.75	-2.9
RoseHillAcqn	ROSE	10.70	-0.1
RothCHAcqnIV	ROCGU	11.90	-1.0
ST Ener I A	STET	10.26	-0.1
SVF Invt 2	SVFB	10.11	0.2
SciPlay	SCPL	16.24	-1.4
ScreamingEagle	SCRMU	10.53	-0.4
SeaportCalibre	SCMA	10.24	...
SeaportGlblAcqnII	SGII	10.21	...
7AcqnA	SVNA	10.28	0.2
7GC	VIIAU	10.12	0.5
SilverSpikeII A	SPKB	10.10	...
SoundPointI	SPCMU	10.63	0.3
SpringValleyII	SVIIU	10.40	...
SpringValleyII A	SVII	10.60	0.4
SpringValleyII Wt	SVIIW	0.36	20.0
SpringwaterSpec	SWSS	10.15	0.2
SterlingInfr	STRL	34.86	2.0
SumitomoMits	SMFG	8.14	0.9
TailwindIntlAcqn	TWNI.U	10.70	2.2
TailwindIntlA	TWNI	10.12	...
TakedaPharm	TAK	15.77	1.0
Talon1Acqn	TOACU	10.37	0.8
Tecnoglass	TGLS	32.88	1.3
TencentMusic	TME	8.85	3.9
TernsPharm	TERN	10.67	-13.8
ThunderBridgeIII A	TBCP	10.48	0.8
TidewaterWtB	TDW.WS.B	0.79	-20.0
TrajectoryAlphaA	TCOA	10.06	0.1
TransportadGas	TGS	12.17	-2.0
TurkcellIletism	TKC	5.32	7.7
TwelveSeasII A	TWLV	10.07	0.1
TwinRidgeCapA	TRCA	10.15	0.1
VOC Energy	VOC	10.59	-2.7
VahannaTechI	VHNAU	10.25	0.5
Vaxcyte	PCVX	49.31	-1.6
VeronaPharma	VRNA	26.44	-6.3
Vipshop	VIPS	14.59	5.4
VisionSensingA	VSAC	10.34	0.3
WaveLifeSci	WVE	7.12	-11.4
WesternAcqn	WAVSU	12.80	0.8
XeneticBioWt	XBIOW	2.11	1.0
YPF	YPF	9.50	-5.2

Lows

Stock	Sym	52-Wk Hi/Lo	% Chg
ACRESCmclPfdD	ACRpD	17.80	1.0
AMTD Digital	HKD	9.40	-1.6
AdamasOne	JEWL	2.60	-8.4
AkariTherap	AKTX	0.38	5.0
AltisourcePortf	ASPS	8.55	-7.7
AptIncmREIT	AIRC	33.57	-0.9
Apexigen	APGN	0.61	-4.7
Apple	AAPL	124.17	-3.7
ArqitQuantumWt	ARQQW	0.45	-11.7
ArqitQuantum	ARQQ	2.94	-16.9
AscentSolar	ASTI	1.38	-13.5
AtlanticAmerican	AAME	2.10	3.4
AyalaPharm	AYLA	0.36	5.0
Bakkt	BKKT	1.13	-2.5
BedBath	BBBY	2.25	-8.0
BetterwaredeMexico	BWMX	6.26	-1.7
BiondVaxPharm	BVXV	2.80	1.6
Bionomics	BNOX	4.13	-11.2
BioraTherap	BIOR	2.28	-28.6
Biotricity	BTCY	0.40	-2.4
Braskem	BAK	8.28	-9.9
CENAQEnergyUn	CENQU	9.16	11.7
CenaqEnergyA	CENQ	8.90	13.4
CIIGCapPtrsII	CIIGU	9.87	0.4
CKX Lands	CKX	9.89	0.7
CME Group	CME	166.55	0.5
Centerspace	CSR	57.03	-0.8
ChargeEnt	CRGE	1.12	-6.5
ChinaPharma	CPHI	0.08	-9.3
CodeChainNew	CCNC	1.80	0.5
Cohen	COHN	8.05	-2.3
DLH Holdings	DLHC	11.17	-4.3
DesignerBrands	DBI	9.21	-5.6
DigitalAlly	DGLY	0.21	-3.0
DouglasEmmett	DEI	15.01	-2.9
Durect	DRRX	3.17	4.0
ENGlobal	ENG	0.72	-4.1
EQRxWt	EQRXW	0.10	10.4
EsportsEnt	GMBL	0.07	-3.9
ExelaTech	XELA	0.08	-0.7
ExtraSpaceSt	EXR	142.46	-2.0
FaradayFutureWt	FFIEW	0.04	-3.1

Continued on Page B11

Borrowing Benchmarks | wsj.com/market-data/bonds/benchmarks

Money Rates

January 3, 2023

Key annual interest rates paid to borrow or lend money in U.S. and international markets. Rates below are a guide to general levels but don't always represent actual transactions.

Inflation

	Nov. index level	Chg From (%) Oct. '22	Nov. '21
U.S. consumer price index			
All items	297.711	−0.10	7.1
Core	299.600	0.10	6.0

International rates

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
Prime rates				
U.S.	7.50	7.50	7.50	3.25
Canada	6.45	6.45	6.45	2.45
Japan	1.475	1.475	1.475	1.475
Policy Rates				
Euro zone	2.50	2.50	2.50	0.00
Switzerland	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.00
Britain	3.50	3.50	3.50	0.25
Australia	3.10	3.10	3.10	0.10
Overnight repurchase				
U.S.	4.31	4.31	4.36	0.01

U.S. government rates

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
Discount	4.50	4.50	4.50	0.25
Federal funds				
Effective rate	4.3400	4.3300	4.3400	0.0800
High	4.6500	4.6000	4.6500	0.0900
Low	4.3100	4.3100	4.3100	0.0500
Bid	4.3200	4.3200	4.3300	0.0600
Offer	4.3700	4.3400	4.3700	0.0800
Treasury bill auction				
4 weeks	3.830	3.610	3.970	0.020
13 weeks	4.410	4.350	4.410	0.090
26 weeks	4.635	4.600	4.635	0.220

Secondary market

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week High	Low
Fannie Mae 30-year mortgage yields				
30 days	5.916	5.913	6.812	2.751
60 days	5.943	5.937	6.988	2.812

Other short-term rates

	Latest	Week ago	52-Week high	low
Call money	6.25	6.25	6.25	2.00
Commercial paper (AA financial)				
90 days	n.a.	n.a.	4.71	0.14

	Latest	Week ago	52-WEEK High	Low
Libor				
One month	4.40129	4.38686	4.40129	0.10200
Three month	4.78186	4.72643	4.78186	0.21600
Six month	5.13614	5.15314	5.22529	0.34000
One year	5.44686	5.44386	5.66643	0.59629
Secured Overnight Financing Rate	4.30	4.30	4.32	0.04

	Latest	Value Traded	52-Week High	Low
DTCC GCF Repo Index				
Treasury	4.317	110.328	4.365	0.023
MBS	4.369	60.400	4.403	0.032

Notes on data:
U.S. prime rate is the base rate on corporate loans posted by at least 70% of the 10 largest U.S. banks, and is effective December 15, 2022. **Other prime rates** aren't directly comparable; lending practices vary widely by location; **Discount rate** is effective December 15, 2022. **Secured Overnight Financing Rate** is as of December 30, 2022. **DTCC GCF Repo Index** is Depository Trust & Clearing Corp.'s weighted average for overnight trades in applicable CUSIPs. Value traded is in billions of U.S. dollars. **Federal-funds rates** are Tullett Prebon rates as of 5:30 p.m. ET.
Sources: Federal Reserve; Bureau of Labor Statistics; DTCC; FactSet; Tullett Prebon Information, Ltd.

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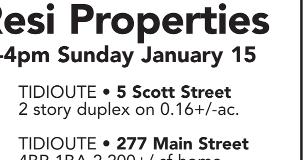
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TIDIOUTE • 277 Main Street
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COMMODITIES

Futures Contracts

Metal & Petroleum Futures

	Open	High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Copper-High (CMX)-25,000 lbs.; $ per lb.							
Jan	3.8325	3.8420		3.7615	**3.7660**	−0.0395	2,082
March	3.8355	3.8715		3.7635	**3.7665**	−0.0440	104,901
Gold (CMX)-100 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
Jan	1836.20	1837.20	▲	1836.20	**1839.70**	20.00	138
Feb	1831.80	1856.60		1831.30	**1846.10**	19.90	363,810
March	1841.60	1864.00	▲	1841.40	**1853.50**	19.80	31
April	1847.20	1872.30		1847.20	**1862.10**	19.90	47,920
June	1866.10	1887.70		1864.70	**1877.70**	20.00	15,072
Aug	1882.40	1903.00		1880.40	**1893.50**	19.90	5,843
Palladium (NYM) - 50 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
Jan	...	...		...	**1684.20**	−105.10	
March	1804.50	1816.50		1674.00	**1692.90**	−105.10	8,092
Platinum (NYM)-50 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
Jan	1078.70	1092.90		1074.50	**1082.00**	8.30	972
April	1086.90	1108.70		1080.70	**1093.30**	10.40	65,799
Silver (CMX)-5,000 troy oz.; $ per troy oz.							
Jan	24.455	24.530		23.980	**24.059**	0.197	27
March	24.305	24.775		24.095	**24.236**	0.196	115,817
Crude Oil, Light Sweet (NYM)-1,000 bbls.; $ per bbl.							
Feb	80.57	81.50		76.60	**76.93**	−3.33	245,852
March	80.66	81.62		76.81	**77.12**	−3.33	174,581
April	80.89	81.64		76.98	**77.27**	−3.26	72,604
June	80.52	81.18		76.97	**77.23**	−2.97	144,567
Dec	77.68	78.07		74.78	**74.97**	−2.34	180,323
Dec'24	72.42	72.86		70.39	**70.55**	−1.76	70,939
NY Harbor ULSD (NYM)-42,000 gal.; $ per gal.							
Feb	3.2965	3.3322		3.0755	**3.0865**	−.2085	75,509
March	3.1665	3.2140		2.9908	**2.9982**	−.1810	46,219
Gasoline-NY RBOB (NYM)-42,000 gal.; $ per gal.							
Feb	2.4909	2.5057		2.3484	**2.3612**	−.1171	85,902
March	2.4887	2.5029		2.3543	**2.3659**	−.1124	45,401
Natural Gas (NYM)-10,000 MMBtu.; $ per MMBtu.							
Feb	4.393	4.394	▼	3.894	**3.988**	−.487	98,742
March	4.005	4.050	▼	3.620	**3.641**	−.463	181,026
April	3.875	3.875		3.530	**3.550**	−.367	97,529
May	3.880	3.880		3.558	**3.575**	−.356	112,835
Oct	4.113	4.153		3.858	**3.873**	−.301	52,066
Jan'24	5.042	5.042		4.876	**4.954**	−.159	48,346

Agriculture Futures

	Open	High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Corn (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
March	677.25	681.25		668.00	**670.50**	−8.00	559,710
July	670.25	674.00		662.00	**664.75**	−7.00	209,553
Oats (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
March	366.00	367.50		360.00	**363.50**	−3.75	3,087
May	361.50	364.00		359.00	**362.25**	−1.75	391
Soybeans (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
Jan	1519.25	1523.25		1485.00	**1487.25**	−32.00	6,872
March	1524.25	1529.00		1490.00	**1492.25**	−31.75	290,229
Soybean Meal (CBT)-100 tons; $ per ton.							
Jan	475.60	480.10		470.90	**476.80**	−1.70	5,660
March	471.00	472.20		461.00	**465.10**	−5.90	210,825
Soybean Oil (CBT)-60,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
Jan	64.06	65.25		63.15	**63.16**	−.65	1,067
March	64.44	65.40		63.12	**63.20**	−.87	161,065
Rough Rice (CBT)-2,000 cwt.; $ per cwt.							
Jan	17.92	17.97		17.92	**18.08**	.02	96
March	18.34	18.48		18.19	**18.39**	...	6,154
Wheat (CBT)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
March	786.00	794.50		769.75	**775.50**	−16.50	159,688
July	799.25	804.50		780.25	**786.50**	−16.50	70,841
Wheat (KC)-5,000 bu.; cents per bu.							
March	880.25	888.00		862.00	**869.25**	−18.75	85,335
May	873.75	881.50		857.00	**864.50**	−17.75	27,196
Cattle-Feeder (CME)-50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
Jan	183.500	183.500		182.450	**182.700**	−1.000	7,477
March	186.100	186.275		184.300	**184.775**	−1.450	20,840
Cattle-Live (CME)-40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
Feb	158.150	158.150		156.650	**156.850**	−1.050	141,381
April	161.950	161.975		160.750	**160.875**	−.925	87,889
Hogs-Lean (CME)-40,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
Feb	87.425	87.975		84.600	**85.075**	−2.625	72,192
April	95.275	95.400		92.925	**93.800**	−1.500	45,962
Lumber (CME)-110,000 bd. ft., $ per 1,000 bd. ft.							
Jan	370.20	370.20	▼	362.00	**363.50**	−10.20	438
March	384.50	384.50		368.30	**377.30**	−5.40	2,338
Milk (CME)-200,000 lbs., cents per lb.							
Dec	20.47	20.47		20.45	**20.46**	−.01	4,111
Feb'23	18.55	18.65	▼	18.10	**18.24**	−.35	4,886
Cocoa (ICE-US)-10 metric tons; $ per ton.							
March	2,587	2,594		2,535	**2,572**	−28	118,428
May	2,593	2,595		2,540	**2,576**	−25	59,576
Coffee (ICE-US)-37,500 lbs.; cents per lb.							
March	166.45	171.15		164.65	**166.30**	−1.00	93,226
May	166.95	170.90		164.50	**166.30**	−.65	43,877
Sugar-World (ICE-US)-112,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
March	20.00	20.02		19.64	**19.70**	−.34	394,732
May	18.69	18.69		18.39	**18.44**	−.28	215,974
Sugar-Domestic (ICE-US)-112,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
March					**36.35**	...	1,923
May					**36.50**	...	2,860
Cotton (ICE-US)-50,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
March	83.37	85.85		82.80	**83.14**	−.23	96,686
May	83.45	85.85		82.92	**83.10**	−.35	35,884
Orange Juice (ICE-US)-15,000 lbs.; cents per lb.							
Jan	202.20	203.00		202.20	**203.70**	−2.70	31
March	204.30	204.40		199.40	**202.15**	−2.05	10,052

Interest Rate Futures

	Open	High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Ultra Treasury Bonds (CBT) - $100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
March	134-150	136-310		133-280	**135-170**	1-07.0	1,413,836
Treasury Bonds (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
March	125-160	127-060		125-030	**126-070**	28.0	1,195,187
June	126-150	127-200		126-000	**127-030**	1-01.0	213
Treasury Notes (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
March	112-180	113-035		112-125	**112-205**	11.0	3,834,046
June	112-275	113-180		112-275	**113-060**	9.5	184
5 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
March	108-020	108-120		107-310	**108-005**	2.7	4,220,415
2 Yr. Treasury Notes (CBT)-$200,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
March	102-193	102-218		102-168	**102-177**	.5	2,231,826
June	102-220	102-232		102-232	**102-237**	.5	13
30 Day Federal Funds (CBT)-$5,000,000; 100 - daily avg.							
Jan	95.6675	95.6700		95.6675	**95.6675**	−.0025	431,166
Feb	95.3500	95.3600		95.3450	**95.3450**	.0000	315,224
10 Yr. Del. Int. Rate Swaps (CBT)-$100,000; pts 32nds of 100%							
March	102-265	102-300		102-070	**102-150**	15.5	16,366
Three-Month SOFR (CME)-$1,000,000; 100 - daily avg.							
Dec	95.5000	95.5050		95.4975	**95.5000**	−.0025	805,550
March'23	95.0950	95.1200		95.0750	**95.0850**	.0000	1,231,527
Eurodollar (CME)-$1,000,000; pts of 100%							
Jan	95.2150	95.2275		95.1950	**95.1975**	−.0125	147,777
March	94.9300	94.9550		94.9100	**94.9200**	−.0050	889,232
Sept	94.9400	95.0050		94.9150	**94.9400**	.0150	675,473
Dec	95.2250	95.3000		95.2100	**95.2300**	.0200	725,491

Currency Futures

	Open	High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Japanese Yen (CME)-¥12,500,000; $ per 100¥							
Jan	.7670	.7735	▲	.7624	**.7660**	.0011	666
March	.7716	.7794		.7681	**.7718**	.0011	167,046
Canadian Dollar (CME)-CAD 100,000; $ per CAD							
Jan	.7345	.7395		.7308	**.7319**	−.0070	238
March	.7382	.7400		.7310	**.7322**	−.0071	131,328
British Pound (CME)-£62,500; $ per £							
Jan	1.2075	1.2088		1.1905	**1.1988**	−.0080	1,472
March	1.2076	1.2105		1.1919	**1.2004**	−.0080	197,558
Swiss Franc (CME)-CHF 125,000; $ per CHF							
March	1.0880	1.0922		1.0718	**1.0774**	−.0129	31,516
June	1.0890	1.1013		1.0834	**1.0883**	−.0130	389
Australian Dollar (CME)-AUD 100,000; $ per AUD							
Jan	.6801	.6838		.6692	**.6739**	−.0074	488
March	.6817	.6854		.6706	**.6754**	−.0074	125,100
Mexican Peso (CME)-MXN 500,000; $ per MXN							
Jan	.05098	.05142		.05116	**.05152**	.00035	141
March	.05072	.05097		.05055	**.05096**	.00034	241,051
Euro (CME)-€125,000; $ per €							
Jan	1.0671	1.0690		1.0530	**1.0577**	−.0136	2,962
March	1.0723	1.0736		1.0570	**1.0617**	−.0137	707,570

Index Futures

	Open	High	hi lo	Low	Settle	Chg	Open interest
Mini DJ Industrial Average (CBT)-$5 x index							
March	33485	33643		32983	**33278**	−7	75,966
June	33736	33883		33244	**33527**	−12	288
Mini S&P 500 (CME)-$50 x index							
March	3895.00	3906.75		3814.50	**3846.00**	−15.00	2,002,559
June	3905.00	3939.25		3848.25	**3879.25**	−15.50	7,639
Mini S&P Midcap 400 (CME)-$100 x index							
March	2464.00	2477.00		2414.10	**2431.80**	−10.80	42,365
June					**2451.30**	−11.90	n.a.
Mini Nasdaq 100 (CME)-$20 x index							
March	11122.50	11182.00		10844.75	**10945.50**	−76.75	240,526
June	11243.25	11297.25		10963.00	**11061.25**	−77.75	756
Mini Russell 2000 (CME)-$50 x index							
March	1790.00	1801.80		1745.40	**1760.00**	−10.90	435,935
Mini Russell 1000 (CME)-$50 x index							
March	2122.40	2139.90		2093.70	**2110.10**	−8.40	6,924
U.S. Dollar Index (ICE-US)-$1,000 x index							
March	103.45	104.65		103.24	**104.31**	1.04	41,723
June	103.08	104.20		102.90	**103.92**	1.03	574

Source: FactSet

Exchange-Traded Portfolios | WSJ.com/ETFresearch

Largest 100 exchange-traded funds, latest session

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

ETF	Symbol	Closing Price	Chg (%)	YTD (%)
CnsmrDiscSelSector	XLY	128.39	**−0.60**	−0.6
CnsStapleSelSector	XLP	74.27	**−0.38**	−0.4
DimenUSCoreEq2	DFAC	24.18	**−0.41**	−0.4
EnSelSectorSPDR	XLE	84.40	**−3.51**	−3.5
FinSelSectorSPDR	XLF	34.32	**0.35**	0.4
HealthCareSelSect	XLV	135.46	**−0.29**	−0.3
IndSelSectorSPDR	XLI	98.42	**0.21**	0.2
InvscQQQI	QQQ	264.48	**−0.68**	−0.7
InvscS&P500EW	RSP	141.12	**−0.09**	−0.1
iShCoreDivGrowth	DGRO	49.86	**−0.28**	−0.3
iShCoreMSCIEAFE	IEFA	62.17	**0.86**	0.9
iShCoreMSCIEM	IEMG	47.07	**0.79**	0.8
iShCoreMSCITotInt	IXUS	58.30	**0.73**	0.7
iShCoreS&P500	IVV	382.53	**−0.44**	−0.4
iShCoreS&P MC	IJH	240.74	**−0.48**	−0.5
iShCoreS&P SC	IJR	94.50	**−0.15**	−0.1
iShCoreS&PTotUS	ITOT	84.42	**−0.45**	−0.4
iShCoreTotalUSDBd	IUSB	45.17	**0.53**	0.5
iShCoreUSAggBd	AGG	97.56	**0.59**	0.6
iShSelectDividend	DVY	120.54	**−0.05**	−0.05
iShESGAwareUSA	ESGU	84.44	**−0.37**	−0.4
iShEdgeMSCIMinUSA	USMV	72.17	**0.10**	0.1
iShEdgeMSCIUSAQual	QUAL	113.64	**−0.28**	−0.3
iShGoldTr	IAU	34.88	**0.84**	0.8
iShiBoxx$HYCpBd	HYG	73.77	**0.19**	0.2
iShiBoxx$InvGrCpBd	LQD	106.16	**0.69**	0.7
iShJPMUSDEmgBd	EMB	84.96	**0.44**	0.4
iShMBSETF	MBB	93.19	**0.47**	0.5
iShMSCIACWI	ACWI	84.90	**0.02**	0.02
iShMSCI EAFE	EFA	66.22	**0.88**	0.9
iSh MSCI EM	EEM	38.22	**0.84**	0.8
iShMSCIEAFEValue	EFV	46.25	**0.81**	0.8

ETF	Symbol	Closing Price	Chg (%)	YTD (%)
iShNatlMuniBd	MUB	105.91	**0.37**	0.4
iSh1-5YIGCorpBd	IGSB	49.89	**0.14**	0.1
iShPfd&Incm	PFF	30.68	**0.49**	0.5
iShRussell1000Gwth	IWF	212.62	**−0.76**	−0.8
iShRussell1000Val	IWD	151.60	**−0.03**	−0.03
iShRussell2000	IWM	173.40	**−0.55**	−0.6
iShRussellMid-Cap	IWR	67.16	**−0.43**	−0.4
iShRussellMCValue	IWS	105.01	**−0.31**	−0.3
iShRussell1000	IWB	209.48	**−0.49**	−0.5
iShS&P500Growth	IVW	57.77	**−1.25**	−1.2
iShS&P500Value	IVE	145.73	**0.45**	0.5
iShShortTreaBd	SHV	109.94	**0.02**	0.02
iShTIPSBondETF	TIP	106.82	**0.36**	0.4
iSh1-3YTreasuryBd	SHY	81.24	**0.09**	0.1
iSh7-10YTreaBd	IEF	96.53	**0.78**	0.8
iSh20+YTreaBd	TLT	101.46	**1.91**	1.9
iShUSTreasuryBd	GOVT	22.84	**0.53**	0.5
JPMEquityPrem	JEPI	54.47	**−0.04**	−0.04
JPM UltShIncm	JPST	50.12	**−0.02**	−0.02
SPDRBlm1-3MTB	BIL	91.48	**0.01**	0.01
SPDR Gold	GLD	171.06	**0.84**	0.8
SPDRS&P500Value	SPYV	39.09	**0.51**	0.5
SPDRPtfS&P500	SPLG	44.78	**−0.44**	−0.4
SPDRS&P500Growth	SPYG	50.06	**−1.20**	−1.2
SchwabIntEquity	SCHF	32.42	**0.65**	0.7
SchwabUS BrdMkt	SCHB	44.60	**−0.47**	−0.5
SchwabUS Div	SCHD	75.44	**−0.13**	−0.1
SchwabUS LC	SCHX	44.94	**−0.47**	−0.5
SchwabUS LC Grw	SCHG	55.06	**−0.90**	−0.9
SchwabUS SC	SCHA	40.28	**−0.57**	−0.6
Schwab US TIPs	SCHP	51.93	**0.27**	0.3
SPDR DJIA Tr	DIA	331.22	**−0.03**	−0.03
SPDR S&PMdCpTr	MDY	440.72	**−0.47**	−0.5

ETF	Symbol	Closing Price	Chg (%)	YTD (%)
SPDR S&P 500	SPY	380.82	**−0.42**	−0.4
SPDR S&P Div	SDY	125.45	**0.27**	0.3
TechSelectSector	XLK	123.26	**−0.95**	−0.9
UtilitiesSelSector	XLU	70.50	**...**	...
VangdInfoTech	VGT	316.35	**−0.96**	−1.0
VangdSC Val	VBR	158.33	**−0.30**	−0.3
VangdExtMkt	VXF	132.10	**−0.57**	−0.6
VangdDivApp	VIG	151.78	**−0.05**	−0.05
VangdFTSEDevMk	VEA	42.20	**0.55**	0.5
VangdFTSE EM	VWO	39.40	**1.08**	1.1
VangdFTSE Europe	VGK	56.14	**1.26**	1.3
VangdFTSEAWxUS	VEU	50.50	**0.72**	0.7
VangdGrowth	VUG	211.61	**−0.70**	−0.7
VangdHlthCr	VHT	247.03	**−0.41**	−0.4
VangdHiDiv	VYM	108.02	**−0.18**	−0.2
VangdIntrCorpBd	VCIT	77.88	**0.48**	0.5
VangdIntermTrea	VGIT	58.71	**0.39**	0.4
VangdLC	VV	173.46	**−0.42**	−0.4
VangdMC	VO	202.87	**−0.46**	−0.5
VangdMC Val	VOE	135.06	**−0.13**	−0.1
VangdMBS	VMBS	45.86	**0.75**	0.7
VangdRealEst	VNQ	82.56	**0.10**	0.1
VangdS&P500ETF	VOO	349.99	**−0.38**	−0.4
VangdST Bond	BSV	75.37	**0.12**	0.1
VangdSTCpBd	VCSH	75.27	**0.11**	0.1
VangdShtTmInfltn	VTIP	46.70	**−0.02**	−0.01
VangdShortTrea	VGSH	57.86	**0.07**	0.1
VangdSC	VB	182.50	**−0.57**	−0.6
VangdTaxExemptBd	VTEB	49.62	**0.26**	0.3
VangdTotalBd	BND	72.22	**0.53**	0.5
VangdTotIntlBd	BNDX	47.85	**0.89**	0.9
VangdTotIntlStk	VXUS	52.07	**0.68**	0.7
VangdTotalStk	VTI	190.41	**−0.41**	−0.4
VangdTotWrldStk	VT	86.24	**0.06**	0.1
VangdValue	VTV	140.13	**−0.17**	−0.2

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20 911 Carrera Coupe *PDK*	Jet Black/Black	12K mi	CPO	$119,900
19 911 GT3 RS *PDK*	GT Silver/ Black	4K mi	CPO	$264,900
18 911 Turbo S Coupe *PDK*	PTS Voodoo Blue/Black	5K mi	CPO	$204,900
18 911 Carrera S Coupe *PDK*	Jet Black/Black	5K mi	CPO	$117,900
16 911 R Coupe *Manual*	White/Black	1K mi	CPO	$469,900
14 911 Turbo S Coupe *PDK*	Basalt Black/Espresso	11K mi	CPO	$149,900
14 911 Turbo S Coupe *PDK*	Basalt Black/Black & Grey	22K mi	CPO	$139,900
11 911 GT2 RS *Manual*	GT Silver/Black & Red	2K mi	CPO	$759,900
06 911 Carrera 4S Coupe *Manual, 1 Owner*	Black/Beige	7K mi		$99,900
05 911 GT3 *Manual*	Black/Black	11K mi		$169,900
91 911 Carrera *Manual, 1 Owner*	Guards Red/Cashmere	56K mi		$127,900

> MACAN/CAYENNE/PANAMERA/TAYCAN

22 Taycan 4S	Neptune Blue/Truffle Brown	6K mi		$136,900
22 Panamera GTS	Papaya Metallic/Black	5K mi		$149,900
21 Taycan 4 Cross Turismo	Black/Black	6K mi		$109,900
20 Cayenne Turbo Coupe	Quartzite Grey/Red & Black	27K mi	CPO	$126,900

> CAYMAN/BOXSTER

22 718 Cayman S *PDK*	Shark Blue/Black	2K mi	CPO	$94,900
16 Cayman GT4	White/Black	4K mi	CPO	$112,900
10 Cayman S *PDK*	Meteor Grey/Black	41K mi		$46,900

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BIGGEST 1,000 STOCKS

How to Read the Stock Tables

The following explanations apply to NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE American and Nasdaq Stock Market listed securities. Prices are composite quotations that include primary market trades as well as trades reported by Nasdaq BX (formerly Boston), Chicago Stock Exchange, Cboe, NYSE National and Nasdaq ISE.
The list comprises the 1,000 largest companies based on market capitalization.
Underlined quotations are those stocks with large changes in volume compared with the issue's average trading volume.
Boldfaced quotations highlight those issues whose price changed by 5% or more if their previous closing price was $2 or higher.

Footnotes:
▲-New 52-week high.
▼-New 52-week low.
dd-Indicates loss in the most recent four quarters.
FD-First day of trading.
h-Does not meet continued listing standards
lf-Late filing
q-Temporary exemption from Nasdaq requirements.
t-NYSE bankruptcy
v-Trading halted on primary market.
vj-In bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Code, or securities assumed by such companies.

Wall Street Journal stock tables reflect composite regular trading as of 4 p.m. and changes in the closing prices from 4 p.m. the previous day.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
A B C			
ABB	ABB	30.78	0.32
ADT	ADT	8.95	-0.12
AECOM	ACM	83.71	-1.04
AES	AES	28.11	-0.65
Aflac	AFL	71.58	-0.36
AGCO	AGCO	137.27	-1.42
Ansys	ANSS	238.64	-2.95
APA	**APA**	**43.62**	**-3.06**
ASETech	ASX	6.26	-0.01
ASML	ASML	549.57	3.17
AT&T	T	18.74	0.33
AbbottLabs	ABT	109.58	-0.21
AbbVie	ABBV	162.38	0.77
AcadiaHealthcare	ACHC	81.48	-0.84
Accenture	ACN	270.26	3.42
ActivisionBliz	ATVI	76.88	0.33
Adobe	ADBE	336.92	0.39
AdvanceAuto	AAP	151.54	4.51
AdvDrainageSys	WMS	81.28	-0.69
AdvMicroDevices	AMD	64.02	-0.75
Aegon	AEG	5.05	0.01
AerCap	AER	57.95	-0.37
AgilentTechs	A	150.04	0.39
agilon health	AGL	16.04	-0.10
AgnicoEagle	AEM	53.56	1.57
AgreeRealty	ADC	70.58	-0.35
AirProducts	APD	306.57	-1.69
Airbnb	ABNB	84.90	-0.60
AkamaiTech	AKAM	84.97	0.67
Albemarle	ALB	214.50	-2.36
Albertsons	ACI	20.70	-0.04
Alcoa	AA	44.58	-0.89
Alcon	ALC	68.98	0.43
AlexandriaRlEst	ARE	144.11	-1.56
Alibaba	BABA	91.98	3.89
AlignTech	ALGN	212.28	1.38
Allegion	ALLE	107.70	2.44
AlliantEnergy	LNT	55.37	0.16
Allstate	ALL	136.66	1.06
AllyFinancial	ALLY	24.42	-0.03
AlnylamPharm	ALNY	233.59	-4.06
Alphabet C	GOOG	89.70	0.97
Alphabet A	GOOGL	89.12	0.89
Altria	MO	45.52	-0.19
Amazon.com	AMZN	85.82	1.82
Ambev	ABEV	2.59	-0.13
Amcor	AMCR	11.92	0.01
▲ Amdocs	DOX	91.72	0.82
Ameren	AEE	88.49	-0.43
AmericaMovil	AMX	18.30	0.10
AmericaMovil A	AMOV	18.15	0.15
AmerAirlines	AAL	12.74	0.02
AEP	AEP	94.87	-0.08
AmerExpress	AXP	147.12	-0.63
AmericanFin	AFG	136.88	-0.40
AmHomes4Rent	AMH	29.76	-0.38
AIG	AIG	62.93	-0.31
AmerTowerREIT	AMT	214.67	2.81
AmerWaterWorks	AWK	154.10	1.68
AmericoldRealty	COLD	28.50	0.19
Ameriprise	AMP	310.66	-0.71
AmerisourceBrgn	ABC	164.29	-1.42
Ametek	AME	140.52	0.80
Amgen	AMGN	261.65	-0.99
Amphenol	APH	76.40	0.26
AnalogDevices	ADI	162.45	-1.58
AngloGoldAsh	AU	20.16	0.74
AB InBev	BUD	59.60	-0.44
AnnalyCap	NLY	21.44	0.36
AnteroResources	**AR**	**28.42**	**-2.57**
Aon	AON	299.42	-0.72
ApolloGlbMgmt	APO	62.81	-0.98
▼ Apple	AAPL	125.07	-4.86
ApplMaterials	AMAT	96.73	-0.65
Aptargroup	ATR	110.26	0.28
Aptiv	APTV	92.95	-0.18
Aramark	ARMK	41.40	0.06
ArcelorMittal	MT	26.63	0.41
ArchCapital	ACGL	62.46	-0.32
ArcherDaniels	ADM	89.65	-3.20
AresMgmt	ARES	68.35	-0.09
arGEN-X	ARGX	373.80	-5.03
AristaNetworks	ANET	120.91	-0.44
ArrowElec	ARW	106.14	1.57
AscendisPharma	ASND	120.72	-1.41
AspenTech	AZPN	206.26	0.86
Assurant	AIZ	127.32	2.26
AstraZeneca	AZN	69.33	1.53
Atlassian	TEAM	126.50	-2.18
AtmosEnergy	ATO	111.20	-0.87
Autodesk	ADSK	185.15	-1.72
Autoliv	ALV	77.55	0.97
ADP	ADP	237.66	-1.20
AutoNation	AN	107.22	-0.08
AutoZone	AZO	2431.06	-35.12
Avalonbay	AVB	161.50	-0.02
Avangrid	AGR	43.14	0.16
Avantor	AVTR	21.17	0.08
AveryDennison	AVY	183.21	2.21
AvisBudget	CAR	164.75	0.82
AxonEnterprise	AXON	168.24	2.31
BCE	BCE	44.06	0.11
BHP Group	BHP	61.40	-0.65
BJ'sWholesale	BJ	67.89	1.73
BOK Fin	BOKF	98.94	-4.85
BP	BP	34.32	-0.61
Baidu	BIDU	119.13	4.75
BakerHughes	BKR	28.75	-0.78
Ball	BALL	51.97	0.83
BancoBilbaoViz	BBVA	6.17	0.16
BancoBradesco	**BBDO**	**2.35**	**-0.24**
BancodeChile	BCH	19.78	-1.04
BancSanBrasil	**BSBR**	**5.04**	**-0.35**
BcoSantChile	BSAC	15.33	-0.51
BancoSantander	SAN	3.00	0.05
BanColombia	CIB	27.16	-1.38
BankofAmerica	BAC	33.51	0.39
BankofMontreal	BMO	91.04	0.44
BankNY Mellon	BK	46.30	0.78
BankNovaScotia	BNS	47.67	-0.55
Barclays	BCS	7.97	0.17
BarrickGold	GOLD	17.83	0.65
Bath&BodyWks	BBWI	43.19	1.05
BaxterIntl	BAX	51.04	0.07
BectonDicknsn	BDX	256.18	1.88
BeiGene	BGNE	226.63	6.69
BentleySystems	BSY	36.73	-0.23
Berkley	WRB	72.58	0.01
BerkHathwy B	BRK.B	309.91	1.01
BerkHathwy A	BRK.A	469525	814.04
BerryGlobal	BERY	60.46	0.03
BestBuy	BBY	80.41	0.20
Bilibili	**BILI**	**27.00**	**3.31**
Bill.com	BILL	109.26	0.30
Bio-Techne	TECH	82.53	-0.35
Bio-RadLab A	BIO	422.43	1.94
Biogen	BIIB	272.63	-4.29
BioMarinPharm	BMRN	100.61	-2.88
BioNTech	BNTX	148.65	-1.57
BlackKnight	BKI	62.00	0.25
BlackRock	BLK	712.04	3.41
Blackstone	BX	76.13	1.94
Block	SQ	64.64	1.80
BlueOwlCapital	OWL	10.09	-0.51
Boeing	BA	195.39	4.90
BookingHldgs	BKNG	2032.21	16.93
BoozAllen	BAH	104.58	0.06
BorgWarner	BWA	40.27	0.02
BostonProps	BXP	66.62	-0.96
BostonSci	BSX	46.01	-0.26
BristolMyers	BMY	72.26	0.31
BritishAmTob	BTI	40.44	0.46
BrixmorProp	BRX	22.58	0.17
Broadcom	AVGO	553.48	-5.65
BroadridgeFinl	BR	134.56	0.43
Brookfield	BN	31.56	0.10
BrookfieldInfr	BIP	31.32	0.33
BrookfieldRenew	BEPC	28.27	0.73
Brown&Brown	BRO	56.65	-0.32
Brown-Forman A	BF.A	65.11	-0.65
Brown-Forman B	BF.B	64.99	-0.69
Bruker	BRKR	69.07	0.72
BuildersFirst	BLDR	65.35	0.47
Bunge	BG	95.57	-4.20
BurlingtonStrs	BURL	206.16	3.40
CACI Intl	CACI	307.99	7.40
CBRE Group	CBRE	78.44	1.48
CDW	CDW	179.51	0.93
CF Industries	CF	81.95	-3.25
CGI	GIB	86.10	-0.03
CH Robinson	CHRW	90.28	-1.28
▼ CME Group	CME	168.95	0.79
CMS Energy	CMS	63.73	0.40
CNA Fin	CNA	42.38	0.10
CNH Indl	CNHI	16.11	0.05
CRH	CRH	41.03	1.24
CSX	CSX	30.88	-0.10
CVS Health	CVS	92.91	-0.28
CadenceDesign	CDNS	159.64	-1.00
CAE	CAE	19.46	0.12
CaesarsEnt	CZR	42.26	0.66
CamdenProperty	CPT	110.68	-1.20
Cameco	CCJ	22.94	0.27
CampbellSoup	CPB	56.20	-0.55
CIBC	CM	40.52	0.07
CanNtlRlwy	CNI	119.17	0.29
CanNaturalRes	**CNQ**	**52.16**	**-3.37**
CanPacRlwy	CP	74.88	0.29
Canon	CAJ	21.75	0.07
CapitalOne	COF	92.97	0.01
Capri	CPRI	57.77	0.45
CardinalHealth	CAH	76.73	-0.14
Carlisle	CSL	234.29	-1.36
Carlyle	CG	29.99	0.15
CarMax	KMX	60.64	-0.25
Carnival	CCL	7.97	-0.09
Carnival	CUK	7.09	-0.10
CarrierGlobal	CARR	41.61	0.36
CaseysGenStores	CASY	220.95	-3.40
Catalent	CTLT	45.45	0.44
Caterpillar	CAT	238.88	-0.68
Celanese	CE	102.27	0.03
CelsiusHldg	CELH	100.47	-3.57
Cemex	CX	4.12	0.07
CenovusEnergy	**CVE**	**18.25**	**-1.16**
Centene	CNC	79.74	-2.27
CenterPointEner	CNP	29.56	-0.43
CentraisElBras	**EBR**	**7.27**	**-0.66**
CeridianHCM	CDAY	61.57	-2.58
CharlesRiverLabs	CRL	218.40	0.50
CharterComms	CHTR	341.58	2.48
CheckPoint	CHKP	126.83	0.67
Chemed	CHE	506.91	-3.52
CheniereEnergy	**LNG**	**140.53**	**-9.43**
CheniereEnerPtrs	CQP	54.58	-2.29
ChesapeakeEner	**CHK**	**86.13**	**-8.24**
Chevron	CVX	173.99	-5.50
ChewyA	CHWY	35.46	-1.62
ChinaEastrnAir	CEA	20.79	0.61
ChinaSoAirlines	ZNH	33.82	1.42
Chipotle	CMG	1371.13	-16.36
Chubb	CB	220.77	0.17
ChunghwaTel	CHT	37.28	0.69
Church&Dwight	CHD	82.02	1.41
ChurchillDowns	CHDN	210.25	-1.18
Ciena	CIEN	50.74	-0.24
Cigna	CI	321.48	-9.86
CincinnatiFin	CINF	104.01	1.62
Cintas	CTAS	448.99	-2.63
CiscoSystems	CSCO	47.94	0.30
Citigroup	C	45.78	0.55
CitizensFin	CFG	39.53	0.16
CleanHarbors	CLH	113.74	-0.38
ClearwayEnergyA	CWEN.A	30.26	0.34
ClearwayEnergyC	CWEN	32.03	0.16
Cleveland-Cliffs	CLF	16.79	0.68
Clorox	CLX	142.26	1.93
Cloudflare	NET	43.02	-2.19
Coca-Cola	KO	62.95	-0.66
Coca-ColaEuro	CCEP	54.36	-0.96
Cognex	CGNX	47.92	0.81
CognizantTech	CTSH	57.59	0.40
CoinbaseGlbl	**COIN**	**33.60**	**-1.79**
ColgatePalm	CL	79.13	0.34
Comcast A	CMCSA	35.57	0.87
Comerica	CMA	66.05	-0.80
CommerceBcshrs	CBSH	67.61	-0.46
SABESP	**SBS**	**9.68**	**-0.98**
ConagraBrands	CAG	38.83	0.13
Concentrix	CNXC	132.94	-0.22
Confluent	CFLT	21.33	-0.91
ConocoPhillips	COP	113.12	-4.88
ConEd	ED	95.76	0.45
ConstBrands A	STZ	227.60	-4.15
ConstellationEner	CEG	81.91	-4.30
Cooper	COO	332.68	2.01
Copart	CPRT	61.46	0.57
CorebridgeFin	CRBG	20.14	0.08
Corning	GLW	32.54	0.60
Corteva	CTVA	58.93	0.15
CoStar	CSGP	77.65	0.37
Costco	COST	453.28	-3.22
CoterraEnergy	**CTRA**	**23.21**	**-1.36**
Coty	COTY	8.77	0.21
Coupang	CPNG	14.92	0.21
Credicorp	BAP	138.12	2.46
CreditAcceptance	CACC	456.48	-17.92
CreditSuisse	CS	3.12	0.08
Crocs	CROX	106.81	-1.62
CrowdStrike	CRWD	103.28	-2.01
CrownCastle	CCI	138.31	2.67
CrownHoldings	CCK	82.49	0.28
CubeSmart	CUBE	39.34	-0.91
Cullen/Frost	CFR	130.24	-3.46
Cummins	CMI	241.04	-1.25
Curtiss-Wright	CW	165.04	-1.95
D E F			
DCP Midstream	DCP	38.50	-0.29
DISH Network	DISH	14.10	0.06
DTE Energy	DTE	117.86	0.33
Danaher	DHR	262.27	-3.15
Darden	DRI	139.96	1.63
DarlingIngred	DAR	61.01	-1.58
Datadog	DDOG	72.09	-1.41
DaVita	DVA	74.84	0.17
▲ DeckersOutdoor	DECK	389.23	-9.93
Deere	DE	424.29	-4.47
DellTechC	DELL	40.90	0.68
DeltaAir	DAL	32.61	-0.25
DentsplySirona	XRAY	32.69	0.85
DeutscheBank	DB	11.71	0.19
DevonEnergy	**DVN**	**58.12**	**-3.39**
DexCom	DXCM	114.73	1.49
Diageo	DEO	175.95	-2.24
DiamondbkEner	FANG	131.38	-5.40
Dick's	DKS	120.57	0.28
DigitalRealty	DLR	102.83	2.56
DiscoverFinSvcs	DFS	96.99	-0.84
Disney	DIS	88.97	2.09
DocuSign	DOCU	56.75	1.33
DolbyLab	DLB	71.05	0.51
DollarGeneral	DG	246.72	0.47
DollarTree	DLTR	140.26	-1.18
DominionEner	D	62.97	1.65
Domino's	DPZ	339.27	-7.13
Donaldson	DCI	59.00	0.13
DoorDash	DASH	48.36	-0.46
Dover	DOV	135.07	-0.34
Dow	DOW	51.04	0.65
Doximity	DOCS	32.85	-0.71
DrReddy'sLab	RDY	51.73	-0.02
DraftKings	DKNG	11.05	-0.34
Dropbox	DBX	22.68	0.30
DukeEnergy	DUK	103.70	0.71
DuPont	DD	68.86	0.23
Dynatrace	DT	38.35	0.05
EMCOR	EME	148.31	0.20
ENI	E	28.77	0.11
EOG Rscs	EOG	124.45	-5.07
EPAM Systems	EPAM	331.42	3.68
EQT	**EQT**	**31.82**	**-2.01**
EastWestBncp	EWBC	66.01	0.11
EastGroup	EGP	146.75	-1.31
EastmanChem	EMN	82.13	0.69
Eaton	ETN	157.75	0.80
eBay	EBAY	42.15	0.68
Ecolab	ECL	147.21	1.65
Ecopetrol	**EC**	**9.90**	**-0.57**
EdisonInt	EIX	64.28	0.66
EdwardsLife	EW	74.27	-0.34
ElbitSystems	ESLT	167.98	3.94
ElectronicArts	EA	122.80	0.62
ElevanceHealth	ELV	502.20	-10.77
EmersonElec	EMR	96.11	0.05
Enbridge	ENB	39.03	-0.07
Endeavor	**EDR**	**21.20**	**-1.34**
EnergyTransfer	ET	11.62	-0.25
EnphaseEnergy	ENPH	253.31	-11.65
Entegris	ENTG	64.13	-1.46
Entergy	ETR	109.13	-3.37
EnterpriseProd	EPD	24.23	0.11
Equifax	EFX	198.31	3.95
Equinix	EQIX	662.51	7.48
Equinor	**EQNR**	**32.60**	**-3.21**
Equitable	EQH	28.60	-0.10
EquityLife	ELS	64.19	-0.41
EquityResdntl	EQR	58.84	-0.16
ErieIndemnity A	ERIE	244.45	-4.27
EssentialUtil	WTRG	48.16	0.43
EssexProp	ESS	211.31	-0.61
EsteeLauder	EL	253.91	5.80
Etsy	**ETSY**	**113.56**	**-6.22**
EverestRe	RE	333.38	2.11
Evergy	EVRG	62.93	...
EversourceEner	ES	84.22	0.38
ExactSciences	EXAS	48.20	-1.31
Exelon	EXC	43.16	-0.07
Expedia	EXPE	87.68	0.08
ExpeditorsIntl	EXPD	104.98	1.06
▼ ExtraSpaceSt	EXR	144.29	-2.89
ExxonMobil	XOM	106.51	-3.79
F5	FFIV	144.85	1.34
FMC	FMC	124.92	0.12
FactSet	FDS	405.96	4.75
FairIsaac	FICO	591.19	-7.39
Fastenal	FAST	47.40	0.08
FederalRealty	FRT	102.66	1.62
FedEx	FDX	177.27	4.07
Ferguson	FERG	128.61	1.64
Ferrari	RACE	215.37	1.15
FidNatlFin	FNF	37.81	0.19
FidNatlInfo	FIS	68.54	0.69
FifthThirdBncp	FITB	32.64	-0.17
FirstCitizBcshA	FCNCA	751.42	-6.94
FirstHorizon	FHN	24.46	-0.04
FirstIndRlty	FR	48.00	-0.26
FirstRepBank	FRC	121.54	-0.35
FirstSolar	FSLR	145.94	-3.85
FirstEnergy	FE	42.03	0.09
Fiserv	FISV	101.21	0.14
FiveBelow	FIVE	171.88	-4.99
FleetCorTech	FLT	183.19	-0.49
Flex	FLEX	21.56	0.10
Floor&Decor	FND	72.35	2.72
FomentoEconMex	FMX	77.79	-0.33
FordMotor	F	11.68	0.05
Fortinet	FTNT	48.52	-0.37
Fortis	FTS	40.50	0.46
Fortive	FTV	64.27	0.02
FortuneBrandsInnov	FBIN	57.98	0.87
FoxA	FOXA	30.27	-0.10
FoxB	FOX	28.34	-0.11
Franco-Nevada	FNV	138.15	1.67
FranklinRscs	BEN	27.12	0.74
FreeportMcM	FCX	37.92	-0.08
FreseniusMed	FMS	16.11	-0.23
FrontierComms	FYBR	25.22	-0.26
FullTruck	**YMM**	**8.77**	**0.77**
G H I			
GFLEnvironmental	GFL	29.36	0.13
GSK	GSK	35.29	0.15
Gallagher	AJG	187.26	-1.28
Gaming&Leisure	GLPI	51.19	-0.90
Garmin	GRMN	93.57	1.28
Gartner	IT	337.49	1.35
GenDigital	GEN	21.62	0.19
Generac	GNRC	97.71	-2.95
GeneralDynamics	GD	248.60	0.49
GeneralElec	GE	84.98	1.19
GeneralMills	GIS	83.22	-0.63
GeneralMotors	GM	33.82	0.18
Genmab	GMAB	43.03	0.65
Genpact	G	47.19	0.87
Gentex	GNTX	27.69	0.42
GenuineParts	GPC	169.81	-3.70
Gerdau	GGB	5.44	-0.10
GileadSciences	GILD	85.39	-0.46
GitLab	GTLB	43.93	-1.51
GlobalPayments	GPN	100.20	0.88
GlobalFoundries	GFS	51.70	-2.19
Globant	GLOB	168.95	0.79
GlobeLife	GL	119.59	-0.96
GlobusMedical	GMED	73.16	-1.11
GoDaddy	GDDY	74.26	-0.56
GoldFields	GFI	10.82	0.47
GoldmanSachs	GS	346.22	2.84
Grab	**GRAB**	**3.46**	**0.24**
Graco	GGG	67.90	0.64
Grainger	GWW	555.93	-0.32
GraphicPkg	GPK	21.73	-0.52
Grifols	GRFS	8.74	0.24
GpoAeroportuar	PAC	147.68	3.87
GpoAeroportSur	ASR	243.94	10.95
HCA Healthcare	HCA	243.21	3.25
HDFC Bank	HDB	68.40	-0.01
HF Sinclair	DINO	49.65	-2.24
HP	HPQ	26.75	-0.12
HSBC	HSBC	31.63	0.47
H World	HTHT	42.90	0.48
Haleon	HLN	7.93	-0.07
Halliburton	HAL	37.66	-1.69
HalozymeTherap	HALO	55.13	-1.77
HartfordFinl	HIG	75.35	-0.48
Hasbro	HAS	61.95	0.94
HealthcareRealty	HR	19.67	0.40
HealthpeakProp	PEAK	25.44	0.37
Heico	HEI	152.03	-1.61
Heico A	HEI.A	118.78	-1.07
HenrySchein	HSIC	79.60	-0.27
Hershey	HSY	226.93	-4.64
Hess	**HES**	**134.52**	**-7.30**
HessMidstream	HESM	29.67	-0.25
HewlettPackard	HPE	16.06	0.10
Hilton	HLT	125.03	-1.33
Hologic	HOLX	75.55	0.74
HomeDepot	HD	315.91	0.05
HondaMotor	HMC	23.27	0.41
Honeywell	HON	214.30	...
HorizonTherap	HZNP	113.50	-0.30
HormelFoods	HRL	45.75	0.20
DR Horton	DHI	90.68	1.54
HostHotels	HST	15.93	-0.12
HowmetAerospace	HWM	39.06	-0.35
Hubbell	HUBB	234.49	-0.19
HubSpot	HUBS	289.89	0.76
Humana	HUM	500.49	-11.70
JBHunt	JBHT	172.60	-1.76
HuntingtonBcshs	HBAN	14.10	...
HuntingIngalls	HII	228.35	-2.33
HyattHotels	H	88.80	-1.65
ICICI Bank	IBN	21.94	0.05
ICL Group	ICL	7.28	-0.03
IdexxLab	IDXX	406.01	-1.95
ING Groep	ING	12.54	0.37
Invesco	IVZ	18.22	0.23
IQVIA	IQV	203.86	-1.03
ITT	ITT	81.94	0.84
IcahnEnterprises	IEP	51.64	0.99
Icon	ICLR	193.59	-0.66
IDEX	IEX	229.49	1.16
IllinoisToolWks	ITW	220.32	0.02
Illumina	ILMN	200.87	-1.33
ImperialOil	**IMO**	**46.25**	**-2.49**
Incyte	INCY	79.55	-0.77
Infosys	INFY	18.23	0.22
IngersollRand	IR	53.00	0.75
Ingredion	INGR	97.40	-0.53
InspireMedical	INSP	252.99	1.11
Insulet	PODD	286.38	-8.01
Intel	INTC	26.73	0.30
InteractiveBrkrs	IBKR	71.38	-0.97
ICE	ICE	103.23	0.64
InterContinentl	IHG	58.54	0.20
IBM	IBM	141.55	0.66
IntlFlavors	IFF	105.64	0.80
IntlPaper	IP	35.41	0.78
Interpublic	IPG	33.79	0.48
Intuit	INTU	391.18	1.96
IntuitiveSurgical	ISRG	265.63	0.28
▼ InvitatHomes	INVH	29.26	-0.38
▲ IridiumComm	IRDM	52.80	1.40
IronMountain	IRM	49.67	-0.18
ItauUnibanco	**ITUB**	**4.34**	**-0.37**
J K L			
JD.com	JD	57.64	1.51
JPMorganChase	JPM	135.12	1.02
Jabil	JBL	67.18	-1.02
JackHenry	JKHY	176.10	0.54
JacobsSolns	J	121.29	1.22
JamesHardie	JHX	17.95	0.01
JazzPharm	JAZZ	156.36	-2.95
JefferiesFin	JEF	34.22	-0.06
J&J	JNJ	178.19	1.54
JohnsonControls	JCI	64.74	0.74
JonesLang	JLL	162.50	3.13
JuniperNetworks	JNPR	32.53	0.57
KB Financial	KB	38.82	0.16
KBR	KBR	52.26	-0.54
KE Holdings	**BEKE**	**14.81**	**0.85**
KKR	KKR	46.68	0.26
KLA	KLAC	376.55	-0.48
KT	KT	13.30	-0.20
Kanzhun	**BZ**	**21.42**	**1.05**
KarunaTherap	KRTX	193.19	-3.31
Kellogg	K	71.27	0.03
KeurigDrPepper	KDP	35.55	-0.11
KeyCorp	KEY	17.61	0.19
KeysightTechs	KEYS	170.94	-0.13
▼ KilroyRealty	KRC	38.27	-0.40
KimberlyClark	KMB	137.11	1.36
KimcoRealty	KIM	21.24	0.06
KinderMorgan	KMI	18.01	-0.07
Knight-Swift	KNX	53.05	0.64
Philips	PHG	15.64	0.65
KoreaElcPwr	**KEP**	**7.76**	**-0.88**
KraftHeinz	KHC	40.78	0.07
Kroger	KR	44.47	-0.11
LKQ	LKQ	53.86	0.45
LPL Financial	LPLA	217.21	1.04
L3HarrisTech	LHX	206.93	-1.28
LabCorp.ofAmerica	LH	237.78	2.30
LamResearch	LRCX	414.30	-6.00
LamarAdv	LAMR	91.81	-2.59
LambWeston	LW	87.25	-2.11
▲ LasVegasSands	LVS	49.33	1.26
LatticeSemi	LSCC	64.11	-0.77
Lear	LEA	125.87	1.85
LegendBiotech	LEGN	48.70	-1.22
Leidos	LDOS	104.71	-0.48
Lennar B	LEN.B	76.13	1.35
Lennar A	LEN	91.98	1.48
LennoxIntl	LII	241.32	2.09
LiAuto	LI	20.98	0.58
LibertyBroadbandC	LBRDK	76.79	0.52
LibertyBroadbandA	LBRDA	76.86	1.01
LibertyGlobal A	LBTYA	19.82	0.89
LibertyGlobal C	**LBTYK**	**20.44**	**1.01**
LibertyFormOne C	FWONK	59.51	-0.27
LibertyFormOne A	FWONA	53.15	-0.28
LibertyBraves A	BATRA	32.84	0.17
LibertyBraves C	BATRK	32.29	0.06
LibertySirius A	LSXMA	39.61	0.30
LibertySirius C	LSXMK	39.45	0.32
▼ LifeStorage	LSI	96.22	-2.28
EliLilly	LLY	364.99	-0.85
LincolnElectric	LECO	146.18	1.69
Linde	LIN	318.35	-7.83
LiveNationEnt	LYV	68.86	-0.88
LloydsBanking	LYG	2.24	0.04
LockheedMartin	LMT	477.53	-8.96
Loews	L	58.59	0.26
LogitechIntl	LOGI	62.81	0.56
Lowe's	LOW	199.04	-0.20
▼ **Lucid**	**LCID**	**6.17**	**-0.66**
lululemon	LULU	323.38	3.00
LyondellBasell	LYB	83.99	0.96
M N			
M&T Bank	MTB	144.97	-0.09
MDU Rscs	MDU	30.50	0.16
MGM Resorts	MGM	33.28	-0.25
MPLX	MPLX	32.58	-0.26
MSCI	MSCI	461.16	-4.01
MagellanMid	MMP	50.18	-0.03
MagnaIntl	MGA	57.52	1.34
ManhattanAssoc	MANH	121.00	-0.40
ManulifeFin	MFC	17.82	-0.02
MarathonOil	**MRO**	**25.64**	**-1.43**
MarathonPetrol	MPC	110.92	-5.47
Markel	MKL	1321.97	4.48
MarketAxess	MKTX	284.87	5.98
Marriott	MAR	147.75	-1.14
Marsh&McLen	MMC	165.98	0.50
MartinMarietta	MLM	338.19	0.22
MarvellTech	MRVL	35.99	-1.05
Masco	MAS	47.42	0.75
Masimo	MASI	146.03	-1.92
MasTec	MTZ	86.27	0.94
Mastercard	MA	346.80	-0.93
MatadorRscs	**MTDR**	**53.16**	**-4.08**
MatchGroup	MTCH	41.06	-0.43
Mattel	MAT	17.89	0.05
McCormickVtg	MKC.V	82.97	0.80
McCormick	MKC	83.47	0.58
McDonald's	MCD	264.33	0.80
McKesson	MCK	374.33	-0.79
MedicalProp	MPW	11.53	0.39
Medpace	MEDP	208.28	-4.13
Medtronic	MDT	78.26	0.54
MercadoLibre	MELI	826.11	-20.13
Merck	MRK	111.14	0.19
MetaPlatforms	META	124.74	4.40
MetLife	MET	72.15	-0.22
MettlerToledo	MTD	1461.87	16.42
MicrochipTech	MCHP	69.10	-1.15
MicronTech	MU	50.37	0.39
Microsoft	MSFT	239.58	-0.24
MidAmApt	MAA	155.42	-1.57
Middleby	MIDD	133.65	-0.25
▲ MitsubishiUFJ	MUFG	6.81	0.14
MizuhoFin	MFG	2.85	0.01
Mobileye	**MBLY**	**32.71**	**-2.35**
Moderna	MRNA	178.99	-0.63
MohawkInds	MHK	106.86	4.64
MolinaHealthcare	MOH	318.92	-11.30
MolsonCoorsB	TAP	49.44	-2.08
Mondelez	MDLZ	66.25	-0.40
MongoDB	MDB	190.75	-6.09
MonolithicPower	MPWR	342.95	-10.66
MonsterBev	MNST	101.32	-0.21
Moody's	MCO	276.47	-2.15
MorganStanley	MS	85.72	0.70
Morningstar	MORN	218.13	1.54
Mosaic	MOS	42.63	-1.24
MotorolaSol	MSI	257.40	-0.31
MurphyOil	**MUR**	**40.60**	**-2.41**
MurphyUSA	MUSA	272.81	-6.73
NICE	NICE	191.05	-1.25
NIO	NIO	9.63	-0.12
NOV	NOV	19.85	-1.04
NRG Energy	NRG	31.93	0.11
NVR	NVR	4589.32	-23.26
NXP Semi	NXPI	155.05	-2.98
Nasdaq	NDAQ	61.76	0.41
NationalGrid	NGG	60.49	0.17
NatlRetailProp	NNN	46.02	0.26
NatWest	NWG	6.52	0.06
NetApp	NTAP	60.79	0.73
NetEase	**NTES**	**76.45**	**3.82**
Netflix	NFLX	294.95	0.07
Neurocrine	NBIX	120.08	0.64
NewFortressEner	**NFE**	**36.17**	**-3.25**
NewOrientalEduc	EDU	34.65	-0.17
Newmont	**NEM**	**49.58**	**2.38**
NewsCorp A	NWSA	18.30	0.10
NewsCorp B	NWS	18.49	0.05
NexstarMedia	NXST	174.24	-0.79
NextEraEnergy	NEE	83.83	0.23
Nike	NKE	118.75	1.74
NiSource	NI	27.44	0.02
Nokia	NOK	4.69	0.05
NomuraHoldings	NMR	3.77	0.02
Nordson	NDSN	238.03	0.31
NorfolkSouthern	NSC	247.70	1.28
NorthernTrust	NTRS	89.78	1.29
NorthropGrum	NOC	540.33	-5.28
Novartis	NVS	92.21	1.49
▲ NovoNordisk	NVO	136.96	1.62
Novocure	**NVCR**	**67.94**	**-5.41**
NuHoldings	**NU**	**3.56**	**-0.51**
Nucor	NUE	131.06	-0.75
Nutrien	NTR	71.62	-1.41
nVentElectric	NVT	38.08	-0.39
NVIDIA	NVDA	143.15	-2.99
O P Q			
OGE Energy	OGE	39.51	-0.04
ONEOK	OKE	63.94	-1.76
OReillyAuto	ORLY	840.72	-3.31
OccidentalPetrol	OXY	61.05	-1.94
Okta	OKTA	69.55	1.22
OldDomFreight	ODFL	282.52	-1.26
OldRepublic	ORI	24.17	0.02
Olin	OLN	52.37	-0.57
OmegaHealthcare	OHI	27.96	0.01
Omnicom	OMC	82.53	0.96
ON Semi	ON	61.61	-0.76
OpenText	OTEX	30.08	0.44

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Cash Prices

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

These prices reflect buying and selling of a variety of actual or "physical" commodities in the marketplace—separate from the futures price on an exchange, which reflects what the commodity might be worth in future months.

	Tuesday
Energy	
Coal,C.Aplc.,12500Btu,1.2SO2-r,w	205.550
Coal,PwdrRvrBsn,8800Btu,0.8SO2-r,w	15.550
Metals	
Gold, per troy oz	
Engelhard industrial	1848.00
Handy & Harman base	1843.25
Handy & Harman fabricated	2046.01
LBMA Gold Price AM	*Closed
LBMA Gold Price PM	*Closed
Krugerrand,wholesale-e	1923.32
Maple Leaf-e	1969.34
American Eagle-e	1969.34
Mexican peso-e	2374.43
Austria crown-e	1807.06
Austria phil-e	1932.53
Silver, troy oz.	
Engelhard industrial	24.7000
Handy & Harman base	24.0560
Handy & Harman fabricated	30.0700
LBMA spot price	*Closed
(U.S.$ equivalent)	*Closed
Coins,wholesale $1,000 face-a	22129
Other metals	
LBMA Platinum Price PM	*Closed
Platinum,Engelhard industrial	1090.0
Palladium,Engelhard industrial	1713.0
Aluminum, LME, $ per metric ton	*2360.5
Copper,Comex spot	3.7660
Iron Ore, 62% Fe CFR China-s	117.7
Shredded Scrap, US Midwest-s,m	n.a.
Steel, HRC USA, FOB Midwest Mill-s	720
Battery/EV metals	
BMI Lithium Carbonate, EXW China, =99.2%-v,w	76650
BMI Lithium Hydroxide, EXW China, =56.5% -v,w	78650
BMI Cobalt sulphate, EXW China, >20.5% -v,m	7488
BMI Nickel Sulphate, EXW China, >22%-v,m	5688
BMI Flake Graphite, FOB China, -100 Mesh, 94-95% -v,m	813
Fibers and Textiles	
Burlap,10-oz,40-inch NY yd-n,w	0.7350
Cotton,1 1/16 std lw-mdMphs-u	0.8414
Cotlook 'A' Index-t	*n.a.
Hides,hvy native steers piece fob-u	n.a.
Wool,64s,staple,Terr del-u,w	n.a.

	Tuesday
Grains and Feeds	
Barley,top-quality Mnpls-u	n.a.
Bran,wheat middlings, KC-u,w	n.a.
Corn,No. 2 yellow,Cent IL-bp,u	6.6100
Corn gluten feed,Midwest-u,w	n.a.
Corn gluten meal,Midwest-u,w	n.a.
Cottonseed meal-u,w	n.a.
Hominy feed,Cent IL-u,w	n.a.
Meat-bonemeal,50% pro Mnpls-u,w	n.a.
Oats,No.2 milling,Mnpls-u	4.0850
Rice, Long Grain Milled, No. 2 AR-u,w	n.a.
Sorghum,(Milo) No.2 Gulf-u	n.a.
SoybeanMeal,Cent IL,rail,ton48%-u,w	n.a.
Soybeans,No.1 yllw IL-bp,u	15.0200
Wheat,Spring14%-pro Mnpls-u	11.5925
Wheat,No.2 soft red,St.Louis-u	7.7550
Wheat - Hard - KC (USDA) $ per bu-u	9.2925
Wheat,No.1soft white,Portld,OR-u	8.5750
Food	
Beef,carcass equiv. index	
choice 1-3,600-900 lbs.-u	253.90
select 1-3,600-900 lbs.-u	225.08
Broilers, National comp wtd. avg.-u,w	1.2172
Butter,AA Chicago-d	2.3800
Cheddar cheese,bbl,Chicago-d	174.50
Cheddar cheese,blk,Chicago-d	199.75
Milk,Nonfat dry,Chicago lb.-d	132.25
Coffee,Brazilian,Comp-y	1.7106
Coffee,Colombian, NY-y	2.2503
Eggs,large white,Chicago-u	5.1650
Flour,hard winter KC-p	21.80
Hams,17-20 lbs,Mid-US fob-u	0.84
Hogs,Iowa-So. Minnesota-u	81.79
Pork bellies,12-14 lb MidUS-u	n.a.
Pork loins,13-19 lb MidUS-u	1.1988
Steers,Tex.-Okla. Choice-u	n.a.
Steers,feeder,Okla. City-u,w	n.a.
Fats and Oils	
Degummed corn oil, crude wtd. avg.-u,w	n.a.
Grease,choice white,Chicago-h	n.a.
Lard,Chicago-u	n.a.
Soybean oil,crude;Centl IL-u,w	n.a.
Tallow,bleach;Chicago-h	n.a.
Tallow,edible,Chicago-u	n.a.

KEY TO CODES: A=ask; B=bid; BP=country elevator bids to producers; C=corrected; D=CME; E=Manfra,Tordella & Brookes; H=American Commodities Brokerage Co; K=bi-weekly; M=monthly; N=nominal; n.a.=not quoted or not available; P=Sosland Publishing; R=SNL Energy; S=Platts-TSI; T=Cotlook Limited; U=USDA; V=Benchmark Mineral Intelligence; W=weekly; Y=International Coffee Organization; Z=not quoted. *Data as of 1/2

Source: Dow Jones Market Data

Key Interest Rates

Data are annualized on a 360-day basis. Treasury yields are per annum, on actively traded noninflation and inflation-indexed issues that are adjusted to constant maturities. Data are from weekly Federal Reserve release H.15.

	Week Ended Dec 30	Week Ended Dec 23	52-Week High	52-Week Low
Federal funds (effective)	**4.33**	4.33	4.33	0.08
Commercial paper				
Nonfinancial				
1-month	**4.25**	4.28	4.28	0.07
2-month	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
3-month	**n.a.**	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Financial				
1-month	**4.37**	4.31	4.37	0.08
2-month	**4.47**	4.47	4.47	0.12
3-month	**4.56**	4.55	4.59	0.16
Discount window primary credit	**4.50**	4.50	4.50	0.25
Treasury yields at constant maturities				
1-month	**3.97**	3.87	4.06	0.03
3-month	**4.45**	4.35	4.45	0.06
6-month	**4.75**	4.68	4.75	0.20
1-year	**4.73**	4.64	4.76	0.37
2-year	**4.35**	4.25	4.61	0.74
3-year	**4.18**	4.03	4.54	0.98
5-year	**3.96**	3.78	4.32	1.27
7-year	**3.94**	3.76	4.23	1.43
10-year	**3.86**	3.67	4.12	1.51
20-year	**4.12**	3.92	4.44	1.95
Treasury yields (secondary market)				
1-month	**3.76**	3.68	3.90	0.03
3-month	**4.34**	4.24	4.34	0.06
6-month	**4.59**	4.53	4.59	0.20
TIPS				
5-year	**1.63**	1.53	1.81	-1.55
7-year	**1.60**	1.49	1.70	-1.27
10-year	**1.58**	1.46	1.66	-1.02
20-year	**1.61**	1.48	1.70	-0.61
Long-term avg	**1.77**	1.65	1.94	-0.49

Notes on data:
Federal-funds rate is an average for the seven days ended Wednesday, weighted according to rates on broker trades; **Commercial paper rates** are discounted offer rates interpolated from sales by discounted averages of dealer bid rates on nationally traded certificates of deposit; **Discount window primary credit rate** is charged for discounts made and advances extended under the Federal Reserve's primary credit discount window program; **rate** is average for seven days ended Wednesday; **Inflation-indexed long-term TIPS** average is indexed and is based on the unweighted average bid yields for all TIPS with remaining terms to maturity of 10 years or more;

Sources: Federal Reserve; for additional information on these rate data and their derivation, please see, https://www.federalreserve.gov/datadownload/Build.aspx?rel=H15

Dividend Changes

Company	Symbol	Yld %	Amount New/Old	Frq	Payable / Record
Stocks					
Biora Therapeutics	BIOR		1:25		/Jan03
Hallmark Fincl Services	HALL		1:10		/Jan03
New York City REIT	NYC		1:8		/Jan12
Foreign					
Caledonia Mining	CMCL	4.4	.14	Q	Jan27 /Jan13
Telefonica Brasil ADR	VIV	8.2	.1815		Jan03 /

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

KEY: A: annual; M: monthly; Q: quarterly; r: revised; SA: semiannual; S2:1: stock split and ratio; SO: spin-off.

BANKRATE.COM® MMA, Savings and CDs

Average Yields of Major Banks

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Type	MMA	1-MO	2-MO	3-MO	6-MO	1-YR	2-YR	2.5YR	5YR
National average									
Savings	0.27	0.22	0.21	0.59	0.79	1.23	1.14	1.04	1.05
Jumbos	0.68	0.22	0.21	0.68	0.88	1.31	1.27	1.15	1.16
Weekly change									
Savings	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.02	0.03	-0.01	-0.01	0.02
Jumbos	0.03	0.02	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.04

Consumer Savings Rates

Below are the top federally insured offers available nationwide according to Bankrate.com's weekly survey of highest yields. For latest offers and reviews of these financial institutions, please visit bankrate.com/banking/reviews. Information is believed to be reliable, but not guaranteed.

High yield savings

Bank / Phone number	Minimum	Yield (%)
Money market and savings account		
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	$5,000	4.16
CFG Community Bank (888) 205-8388	$1,000	4.15
UFB Direct (877) 472-9200	$0	4.11
One-month CD		
VirtualBank (877) 998-2265	$10,000	2.48
Colorado Federal Savings Bank (877) 484-2372	$5,000	0.75
State Bank of India California (877) 707-1995	$1,000	0.50
Two-month CD		
VirtualBank (877) 998-2265	$10,000	2.74
Colorado Federal Savings Bank (877) 484-2372	$5,000	0.75
State Bank of India California (877) 707-1995	$1,000	0.50
Three-month CD		
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	$10,000	4.05
Luana Savings Bank (800) 666-2012	$2,000	3.35
State Bank of India California (877) 707-1995	$1,000	3.03
Six-month CD		
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	$10,000	4.50
Live Oak Bank (866) 518-0286	$2,500	4.35
Merrick Bank (866) 638-6851	$25,000	4.35
One-year CD		
CFG Community Bank (888) 205-8388	$500	4.75
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	$10,000	4.75
Rising Bank (0) (888) 222-9484	$1,000	4.60
Two-year CD		
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	$10,000	4.60
Merrick Bank (866) 638-6851	$25,000	4.50
Sallie Mae Bank (877) 346-2756	$2,500	4.40
Five-year CD		
CFG Community Bank (888) 205-8388	$500	4.60
GTE Financial Credit Union (U) (888) 871-2690	$500	4.54
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	$10,000	4.50

High yield jumbos - Minimum is $100,000

Bank / Phone number	Yield (%)
Money market and savings account	
CFG Community Bank (888) 205-8388	4.15
UFB Direct (877) 472-9200	4.11
BankPurely, a division of Flushing Bank (800) 581-2889	3.50
One-month CD	
VirtualBank (877) 998-2265	2.48
Colorado Federal Savings Bank (877) 484-2372	0.75
State Bank of India California (877) 707-1995	0.50
Two-month CD	
VirtualBank (877) 998-2265	2.74
Colorado Federal Savings Bank (877) 484-2372	0.75
State Bank of India California (877) 707-1995	0.50
Three-month CD	
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	4.05
Luana Savings Bank (800) 666-2012	3.46
State Bank of India California (877) 707-1995	3.03
Six-month CD	
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	4.50
Merrick Bank (866) 638-6851	4.35
Live Oak Bank (866) 518-0286	4.25
One-year CD	
CFG Community Bank (888) 205-8388	4.75
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	4.75
Merrick Bank (866) 638-6851	4.60
Two-year CD	
Popular Direct (800) 274-5696	4.60
Merrick Bank (866) 638-6851	4.50
Credit One Bank, NA (0) (877) 825-3242	4.45
Five-year CD	
Credit One Bank, NA (0) (877) 825-3242	4.65
CFG Community Bank (888) 205-8388	4.60
GTE Financial Credit Union (U) (888) 871-2690	4.54

Notes: Accounts are federally insured up to $250,000 per person. Yields are based on method of compounding and rate stated for the lowest required opening deposit to earn interest. CD figures are for fixed rates only. MMA: Allows six (6) third-party transfers per month, three (3) of which may be checks. Rates are subject to change.

Source: Bankrate.com, a publication of Bankrate, Inc., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
Internet: www.bankrate.com

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NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, as enacted in New York State, FAIRBRIDGE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST LLC (f/k/a RealFi Real Estate Investment Trust LLC) ("Secured Party") will offer for sale, at public auction, all rights, title, and interests of SOLUTIONS HOLDINGS LLC, as pledgor ("Pledgor"), in and to the following: (a) 100% of the limited liability membership interests (collectively, the "Membership Interests") in SOLUTIONS HOLDINGS LLC, a New York limited liability company (the "Company"); and (b) all other collateral pledged pursuant to that certain Ownership Interests Pledge and Security Agreement, dated as of November 22, 2021 (the "Pledge Agreement"), by Pledgor to Secured Party, pursuant to which Pledgor pledged to Secured Party among other things, all of Pledgor's rights, title and interests in, to and under 100% of the limited liability company membership interests in the Company (all such other collateral described in the Pledge Agreement, is collectively referred to herein as the "Additional Collateral"). The Membership Interests and the Additional Collateral are collectively referred to herein as the "Collateral".
Based upon information provided by Pledgor and its affiliates, it is the understanding of Secured Party (but without any representation or warranty by Secured Party as to the accuracy or completeness of the following matters) that: (i) Pledgor owns one hundred percent (100%) of the limited liability company membership interests in the Company; (ii) the Company (also referred to herein as "Property Owner") owns the fee interest in the real property known as 615 Washington Avenue, Belleville, NJ 07109 (Tax Lot 8 in Tax Block 8302 on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Belleville, NJ) (the "Property"); (iii) the Company's limited liability company membership interests are encumbered by and subject to, among other things, a first priority security interest held by Secured Party securing indebtedness in the approximate outstanding amount of $554,399.00 as of December 09, 2022, with interest, late fees, costs and expenses accruing therefrom. For a current more proximate payoff figure of the outstanding debt, contact the undersigned.
The public auction will be held on February 09, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. (New York Time) (i) by remote auction via Zoom, Meeting Link: https://bit.ly/BvilleUCC (case sensitive), Meeting ID: 889 3775 6382, Password: 605426. The sale will be conducted by Mannion Auctions, LLC, Matthew D. Mannion, licensed auctioneer (DCA #1434494) ("Auctioneer").
The Collateral will be sold to the qualified bidder submitting the highest and best bid; provided, however, that Secured Party reserves the right to (i) for itself and any assignee, bid (whether by cash and/or by crediting some or all of its secured claim) and to become the purchaser at the sale, (ii) reject any and all bids that were submitted by non-qualified bidders and/or bids that were placed in bad faith, (iii) cancel the sale in its entirety, and/or (iv) adjourn the sale. The sale is being held to enforce Secured Party's rights in the Collateral which secures payment of outstanding indebtedness owing from Pledgor to Secured Party, following Pledgor's defaults under applicable loan documents. The Collateral will be sold in a single block, and there shall be no warranty or representations relating to title, possession, quiet enjoyment, merchantability, fitness, or the like, in this disposition.
The public sale of the Collateral shall be subject to the further terms and conditions set forth in the "Terms of Sale" (including without limitation terms and conditions with respect to the availability of additional information, bidding requirements, deposit amounts, bidding procedures, and the consummation of the public sale), which are available by contacting Auctioneer, Matthew D. Mannion, Mannion Auctions, LLC located at 305 Broadway, Suite 200, New York, NY 10007, p: 212-267-6698, e-mail: mdmannion@jpandr.com. Parties interested in bidding must contact Auctioneer well in advance of the auction to receive the Terms of Sale, bidding instructions, and required deposit and registration information. Only qualified bidders will be permitted to bid. All deposits must be paid by cashier check, certified check or bank check made payable to, "FLOREK & COUNSEL, LLC, Attorney Escrow IOLTA" and delivered to and received by Florek & Counsel, LLC, with their offices located at 238 Route 206, Suite A, Branchville, New Jersey 07826, no later than 2/9/2023, 2:00pm, along with an executed set of Terms of Sale, and a filled out bidder registration form. Any certified funds delivered to Florek & Counsel, LLC, must be delivered by certified mail and/or an overnight delivery service, such as UPS or FEDEX, to allow for a comprehensive record of the mailing and receipt. Balance due upon closing within thirty (30) days. Neither cash nor an endorsed check will be accepted. Certified funds only. Persons interested in bidding should contact Auctioneer to confirm deposit instructions.
The Collateral consists of membership interests in the Company and has not been and will not at the time of sale have been registered for sale under any Federal or State securities or blue sky laws, and as such may not be sold or otherwise transferred by a purchaser of any Collateral except in accordance with applicable law. As a result, each prospective bidder seeking to be a "Qualified Bidder" (as determined by Secured Party in its sole and absolute discretion) shall be required, among other things, to execute and deliver to Secured Party a "Bidding Certificate" certifying, among other things, that such bidder: (i) will acquire the Collateral for investment purposes, solely for its own account and not with a view to distribution or resale; (ii) is an accredited investor within the meaning of the applicable securities laws; (iii) has sufficient knowledge and experience in financial and business matters so as to be capable of evaluating the merits and risks of investment and has sufficient financial means to afford the risk of investment in the Collateral; and (iv) will not resell or otherwise hypothecate the Collateral without either a valid registration under applicable federal or state laws, including without limitation the Securities Act of 1933 as amended, or an available exemption therefrom.
FLOREK & COUNSEL, LLC, Attorneys for Secured Party By: Stephen A. Florek III, Esq., 238 Route 206, Suite A Branchville, New Jersey 07826, Tel.: (973) 862-5052, Fax.: (914) 219-0948

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in accordance with applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in New York, by virtue of certain Event(s) of Default under those certain Ownership Interests Pledge and Security Agreement(s) dated as of December 31, 2020 and/or May 17, 2021 (the "**Pledge Agreements**"), executed and delivered by S&B Realty Partnership, J. Supor 136-1 Limited Liability Company, Supor-172 LLC, Supor Properties Devon Holding LLC, Shore Properties Associates North Holding LLC, JL Realty Properties LLC, Supor Properties 600 UR Holding LLC, Supor Properties Harrison Avenue Holding LLC and Supor Properties Breiderhoft Holding LLC (individually and collectively, the "**Pledgor**"), and in accordance with it rights as holder of the security, 1000 Frank E. Rogers 2, LLC (the "**Secured Party**"), by virtue of possession of those certain Share Certificate(s) held in accordance with Article 8 of the Uniform Commercial Code of the State of New York (the "Code") and by virtue of those certain UCC-1 Filing Statement made in favor of Secured Party, all in accordance with Article 9 of the Code, Secured Party will offer for sale, at public auction, (i) all of Pledgor's right, title, and interest in and to the following: Supor Properties Enterprises LLC, J. Supor 136-1 Realty LLC, Supor-172 Realty LLC, Supor Properties Devon LLC, Shore Properties Associates North LLC, JS Realty Properties LLC, Supor Properties 600 Urban Renewal LLC, Supor Properties Harrison Avenue LLC, and Supor Properties Breiderhoft LLC (the "**Pledged Entities**"), and (ii) certain related rights and property relating thereto (collectively, (i) and (ii) are the "**Collateral**"). Secured Party's understanding is that the principal asset of the Pledged Entities is that certain fee interest in real property commonly known as (i) 1000 Frank E. Rodgers Blvd., Harrison, New Jersey; (ii) 751 Harrison Avenue, Harrison, New Jersey; (iii) 201 Devon Terrace, Kearny, New Jersey; (iv) Part of 401 Supor Boulevard a/k/a part of 500 Supor Boulevard and 608 Supor, Harrison, NJ; (v) 600 Guyon Drive, Harrison, New Jersey; (vi) 94 Mantoloking Road, Brock, New Jersey; and (vii) 12 Breiderhoft Road, Kearny, New Jersey (collectively, the "**Property**").
Mannion Auctions, LLC ("**Mannion**"), under the direction of Matthew D. Mannion, licensed auctioneer (DCA #1434494) (the "**Auctioneer**"), will conduct a public sale consisting of the Collateral (as set forth in Schedule A below), via online bidding, on **January 26, 2023 at 11:00am**, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the approximate amount of $**1,291,498.33**, including principal, interest on principal, and reasonable fees and costs, plus default interest through January 26, 2023, subject to open charges and all additional costs, fees and disbursements permitted by law. The Secured Party reserves the right to credit bid.
Online bidding will be made available via Cisco WebEx Remote Meeting, Meeting link: https://bit.ly/SuporAuc; Access Code: 2559 890 6016, Password: AatnK (22865 from video systems). Join by video system: Dial 25598906016@webex.com. You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number. Join by phone: Use VoIP only.
Bidder Qualification Deadline: Interested parties who intend to bid on the Collateral must contact Brett Rosenberg ("Rosenberg"), at JLL Capital Markets, 330 Madison Avenue, Floor 2-5, New York, NY 10017, (212) 812-5926, Brett.Rosenberg@jll.com, to receive the Terms and Conditions of Sale and bidding instructions by **January 23, 2023 by 4:00 pm.** Upon execution of a standard confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement, additional documentation and information will be available. Interested parties who do not contact the Rosenberg and qualify prior to the sale will not be permitted to enter a bid.
KRISS & FEUERSTEIN LLP, Attn: Jerold C. Feuerstein, Esq., Attorneys for Secured Party
360 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1200, New York, New York 10017, (212) 661-2900.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF COLLATERAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in accordance with applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in New York, Notice is hereby given that DW Commercial Real Estate, LLC ("Secured Party") will sell all of the limited liability company interests held by Regalia at the Park Development Holding, LLC and Sovereign Park Manager, LLC (collectively, the "Debtor") in Regalia at the Park Development Company, LLC ("Pledged Entity") to the highest qualified bidder at a public sale in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code as in effect in the State of New York. The sale will take place beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, in satisfaction of an indebtedness in the approximate amount of $7,317,791.64 via a web-based video conferencing program selected by Secured Party. Online bidding will be made available via Zoom, Meeting link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87942616009?pwd=VGwwdk5pM0VIbzVrNDB2TElrQWc3QT09; Meeting ID: 879 4261 6009, Password: 925389; Dial In: +1 646 931 3860 US. Secured Party's understanding is that the principal asset of Pledged Entity is the parcels of real property located at 10 North Crawford Street in Houston, Texas. The Collateral will be sold to the highest qualified bidder; provided, however, that Secured Party reserves the right to cancel the sale in its entirety, or to adjourn the sale to a future date. The sale will be conducted by Mannion Auctions, LLC, by Matthew D. Mannion, Auctioneer, NYC DCA License No. 1434494, with offices at 305 Broadway, Suite 200, New York, New York. The Collateral will be sold as a block, and will not be divided or sold in any lesser amounts. Interested parties who intend to bid on the above Collateral must contact Brock Cannon of NEWMARK at (212) 372-2066, brock.cannon@nmrk.com, to receive the Terms of Public Sale and bidding instructions. Upon execution of a standard non-disclosure agreement, additional documentation and information will be available. Interested parties who do not contact the Secured Party and qualify prior to the sale will not be permitted to enter a bid.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF COLLATERAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that in accordance with applicable provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, as enacted in New York, CAF Bridge Borrower MS LLC ("Secured Party") will offer for sale, at public auction, all member and other equity interests in and to Midtown West 47 ST LLC (the "Collateral"), which owns and operates the real property located at 343 West 47th Street, New York, New York 10036. The public auction will be held on January 19, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. (EST) at the at the office of Holland & Knight LLP, located at 900 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10022 with an option to participate virtually via the following Zoom meeting link: https://bitl.ly/W47UCC2, Access Code: 840 9921 3211, Password: 783033, Call-in number: +1 646-931-3860 (US). The Collateral will be sold to the to the highest qualified bidder; provided, however, that Secured Party reserves the right to cancel the sale in its entirety, or to adjourn the sale to a future date. The sale will be conducted by Matthew D. Mannion of Mannion Auctions, LLC, a licensed auctioneer (DCA #1434494). The Collateral will be sold together in a single block. Interested parties who intend to bid on the above Collateral must contact Secured Party's counsel to receive the Terms of Sale and bidding instructions. Interested parties who do not contact the Secured Party's counsel prior to the sale will not be permitted to enter a bid. Attention: John M. Doherty, Esq., at Holland & Knight LLP, 900 Third Avenue, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10022, (212) 751-3003, jack.doherty@hklaw.com. Upon execution of a standard confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement, additional documentation and information will be available.

MARKETS DIGEST

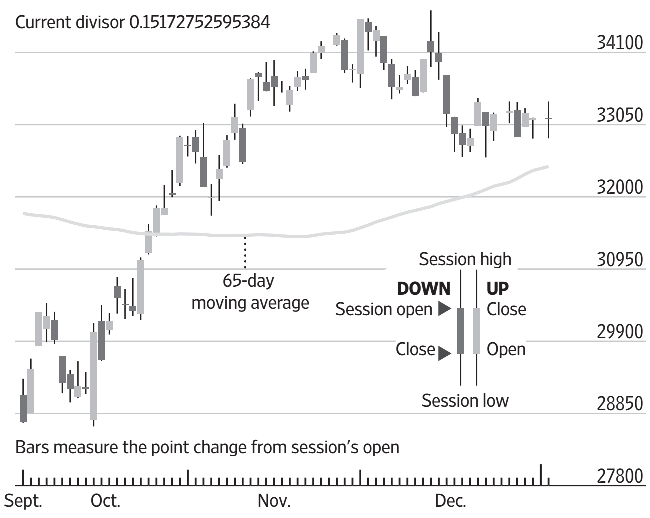
EQUITIES

Dow Jones Industrial Average

33136.37 ▼10.88, or 0.03%

High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio	20.62	22.90
P/E estimate *	18.28	18.76
Dividend yield	2.07	1.88
All-time high	36799.65, 01/04/22	

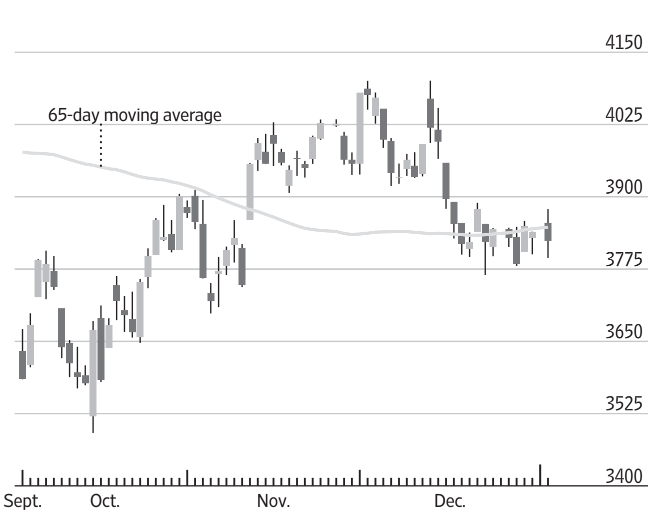


S&P 500 Index

3824.14 ▼15.36, or 0.40%

High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio *	18.59	29.33
P/E estimate *	17.52	22.82
Dividend yield *	1.77	1.26
All-time high	4796.56, 01/03/22	

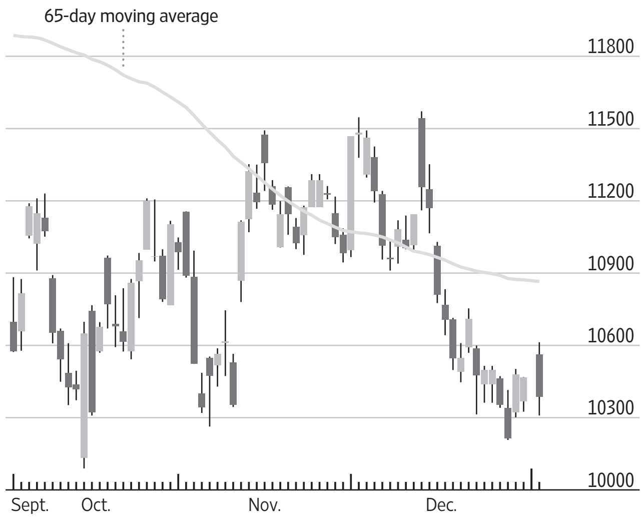


Nasdaq Composite Index

10386.98 ▼ 79.50, or 0.76%

High, low, open and close for each trading day of the past three months.

	Last	Year ago
Trailing P/E ratio *†	23.81	39.63
P/E estimate *†	21.96	30.25
Dividend yield *†	1.00	0.63
All-time high:	16057.44, 11/19/21	



*Weekly P/E data based on as-reported earnings from Birinyi Associates Inc.; †Based on Nasdaq-100 Index

Major U.S. Stock-Market Indexes

	Latest High	Low	Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg	% chg YTD	3-yr. ann.
Dow Jones										
Industrial Average	33387.52	32850.57	**33136.37**	-10.88	**-0.03**	36799.65	28725.51	**-10.0**	-0.03	**5.0**
Transportation Avg	13495.95	13256.05	**13398.03**	6.12	**0.05**	16718.54	11999.40	**-19.2**	0.05	**7.1**
Utility Average	974.81	956.69	**970.68**	3.28	**0.34**	1071.75	838.99	**0.1**	0.3	**3.8**
Total Stock Market	38940.22	38066.84	**38352.71**	-167.89	**-0.44**	48846.02	36056.21	**-21.5**	-0.4	**5.1**
Barron's 400	928.47	903.86	**910.20**	-10.19	**-1.11**	1111.54	825.73	**-18.1**	-1.1	**7.5**
Nasdaq Stock Market										
Nasdaq Composite	10613.06	10309.16	**10386.98**	-79.50	**-0.76**	15622.72	10213.29	**-33.5**	-0.8	**4.8**
Nasdaq-100	11093.10	10770.93	**10862.64**	-77.12	**-0.70**	16279.73	10679.34	**-33.3**	-0.7	**7.3**
S&P										
500 Index	3878.46	3794.33	**3824.14**	-15.36	**-0.40**	4793.54	3577.03	**-20.2**	-0.4	**5.7**
MidCap 400	2460.15	2401.40	**2418.77**	-11.61	**-0.48**	2865.54	2200.75	**-15.6**	-0.5	**5.6**
SmallCap 600	1174.49	1146.92	**1155.53**	-2.00	**-0.17**	1426.13	1064.45	**-19.0**	-0.2	**4.2**
Other Indexes										
Russell 2000	1785.95	1737.26	**1750.73**	-10.51	**-0.60**	2268.87	1649.84	**-22.8**	-0.6	**1.8**
NYSE Composite	15327.53	15053.17	**15154.45**	-29.86	**-0.20**	17353.76	13472.18	**-12.6**	-0.2	**2.9**
Value Line	543.55	532.07	**535.66**	-0.69	**-0.13**	680.36	491.56	**-21.3**	-0.1	**-0.9**
NYSE Arca Biotech	5327.61	5228.71	**5253.58**	-27.52	**-0.52**	5434.06	4208.43	**-3.1**	-0.5	**1.8**
NYSE Arca Pharma	874.50	867.37	**873.36**	5.49	**0.63**	887.27	737.84	**8.0**	0.6	**10.3**
KBW Bank	102.82	100.73	**101.46**	0.61	**0.61**	147.56	94.66	**-27.7**	0.6	**-3.4**
PHLX§ Gold/Silver	126.53	122.49	**124.19**	3.33	**2.76**	167.76	91.40	**-4.6**	2.8	**5.6**
PHLX§ Oil Service	83.85	78.93	**80.21**	-3.64	-4.34	88.37	56.08	**36.5**	-4.3	**0.2**
PHLX§ Semiconductor	2574.68	2489.28	**2500.99**	-31.12	**-1.23**	4009.00	2162.32	**-37.6**	-1.2	**10.5**
Cboe Volatility	22.90	22.90	**22.90**	1.23	5.68	36.45	16.91	**35.4**	5.7	**17.8**

§Nasdaq PHLX

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Late Trading

Most-active and biggest movers among NYSE, NYSE Arca, NYSE Amer. and Nasdaq issues from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. ET as reported by electronic trading services, securities dealers and regional exchanges. Minimum share price of $2 and minimum after-hours volume of 50,000 shares.

Most-active issues in late trading

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	After Hours Last	Net chg	% chg	High	Low
Amazon.com	AMZN	13,435.4	85.89	0.07	**0.08**	86.01	85.60
PayPal Holdings	PYPL	7,738.2	74.65	0.07	**0.09**	74.73	74.38
SPDR S&P 500	SPY	5,939.3	380.65	-0.17	**-0.04**	395.19	369.35
Zillow Group Cl C	Z	5,444.3	33.60	-0.08	**-0.24**	33.79	33.60
Apple	AAPL	4,014.5	124.94	-0.13	**-0.10**	154.29	124.84
iShares MSCI ACWI ETF	ACWI	3,127.1	78.60	-6.30	**-7.42**	84.90	78.60
Invesco QQQ Trust I	QQQ	2,899.9	264.40	-0.08	**-0.03**	270.70	252.07
Pinduoduo ADR	PDD	2,771.2	84.99	0.46	**0.54**	85.00	84.22

Percentage gainers...

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	Last	Net chg	% chg	High	Low
Great Elm Group	GEG	530.2	2.80	0.69	**32.70**	4.00	2.21
SMART Global Holdings	SGH	124.8	16.25	1.13	**7.47**	16.58	14.33
Geron	GERN	187.8	2.56	0.16	**6.67**	2.58	2.37
Stoke Therapeutics	STOK	1,515.2	9.54	0.45	**4.95**	9.54	9.09
FTAI Aviation	FTAI	64.2	18.71	0.87	**4.88**	18.71	17.84

...And losers

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	Last	Net chg	% chg	High	Low
Vera Therapeutics	VERA	2,129.1	7.00	-11.30	**-61.75**	21.74	5.81
Phathom Pharmaceuticals	PHAT	94.0	8.82	-3.17	**-26.44**	11.99	8.16
iShares MSCI ACWI ETF	ACWI	3,127.1	78.60	-6.30	**-7.42**	84.90	78.60
Summit Therapeutics	SMMT	63.6	4.65	-0.35	**-7.02**	5.16	4.60
Nuveen Growth Opps ETF	NUGO	548.8	16.53	-0.91	**-5.22**	16.53	16.53

Trading Diary

Volume, Advancers, Decliners

	NYSE	NYSE Amer.
Total volume*	898,744,161	10,130,729
Adv. volume*	452,276,087	3,591,266
Decl. volume*	441,820,915	6,019,858
Issues traded	3,227	311
Advances	1,891	171
Declines	1,254	124
Unchanged	82	16
New highs	71	4
New lows	36	9
Closing Arms†	1.58	1.60
Block trades*	4,692	105

	Nasdaq	NYSE Arca
Total volume*	4,780,654,557	328,644,328
Adv. volume*	2,370,747,920	175,652,313
Decl. volume*	2,346,852,150	148,928,041
Issues traded	4,843	1,780
Advances	2,516	891
Declines	2,118	871
Unchanged	209	18
New highs	107	3
New lows	93	14
Closing Arms†	1.18	0.88
Block trades*	31,052	1,248

* Primary market NYSE, NYSE American NYSE Arca only.
†(TRIN) A comparison of the number of advancing and declining issues with the volume of shares rising and falling. An Arms of less than 1 indicates buying demand; above 1 indicates selling pressure.

International Stock Indexes

Region/Country	Index	Close	Latest Net chg	% chg	YTD % chg
World	**MSCI ACWI**	**605.46**	–0.85	**–0.14**	0.01
	MSCI ACWI ex-USA	**283.25**	0.86	**0.31**	0.7
	MSCI World	**2600.91**	–6.34	**–0.24**	–0.1
	MSCI Emerging Markets	**962.57**	6.45	**0.67**	0.6
Americas	**MSCI AC Americas**	**n.a.**	n.a.	**n.a.**	n.a.
Canada	**S&P/TSX Comp**	**19443.77**	58.85	**0.30**	0.3
Latin Amer.	**MSCI EM Latin America**	**2044.08**	–52.04	**–2.48**	–4.0
Brazil	**BOVESPA**	**104165.74**	–2210.28	**–2.08**	–5.1
Chile	**S&P IPSA**	**3096.98**	–75.59	**–2.38**	–2.4
Mexico	**S&P/BMV IPC**	**49050.46**	57.22	**0.12**	1.2
EMEA	**STOXX Europe 600**	**434.18**	5.23	**1.22**	2.2
Eurozone	**Euro STOXX**	**419.21**	3.02	**0.73**	2.3
Belgium	**Bel-20**	**3789.06**	35.84	**0.95**	2.4
Denmark	**OMX Copenhagen 20**	**1885.79**	27.53	**1.48**	2.8
France	**CAC 40**	**6623.89**	29.32	**0.44**	2.3
Germany	**DAX**	**14181.67**	112.41	**0.80**	1.9
Israel	**Tel Aviv**	**1788.20**	2.01	**0.11**	–0.5
Italy	**FTSE MIB**	**24436.47**	278.19	**1.15**	3.1
Netherlands	**AEX**	**707.63**	6.47	**0.92**	2.7
Norway	**Oslo Bors All-Share**	**1350.40**	–23.04	**–1.68**	–0.9
South Africa	**FTSE/JSE All-Share**	**74436.48**	1387.91	**1.90**	1.9
Spain	**IBEX 35**	**8397.40**	27.70	**0.33**	2.0
Sweden	**OMX Stockholm**	**801.77**	5.92	**0.74**	2.5
Switzerland	**Swiss Market**	**10978.64**	249.24	**2.32**	2.3
Turkey	**BIST 100**	**5626.57**	–34.53	**–0.61**	2.1
U.K.	**FTSE 100**	**7554.09**	102.35	**1.37**	1.4
U.K.	**FTSE 250**	**19134.34**	281.34	**1.49**	1.5
Asia-Pacific	**MSCI AC Asia Pacific**	**156.72**	0.94	**0.60**	0.6
Australia	**S&P/ASX 200**	**6946.20**	–92.49	**–1.31**	–1.3
China	**Shanghai Composite**	**3116.51**	27.25	**0.88**	0.9
Hong Kong	**Hang Seng**	**20145.29**	363.88	**1.84**	1.8
India	**S&P BSE Sensex**	**61294.20**	126.42	**0.21**	0.7
Japan	**NIKKEI 225**	**26094.50**	...	**Closed**	–9.4
Singapore	**Straits Times**	**3245.80**	–5.52	**–0.17**	–0.2
South Korea	**KOSPI**	**2218.68**	–6.99	**–0.31**	–0.8
Taiwan	**TAIEX**	**14224.12**	86.43	**0.61**	0.6
Thailand	**SET**	**1678.97**	10.31	**0.62**	0.6

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data

Percentage Gainers...

Company	Symbol	Latest Session Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg
ReShape Lifesciences	RSLS	15.66	8.92	**132.34**	91.25	5.40	**-82.5**
Motorsport Games	MSGM	6.95	2.80	**67.47**	48.20	2.01	**-82.8**
180 Life Sciences	ATNF	5.30	1.91	**56.34**	80.72	1.18	**-93.2**
Longboard Pharm	LBPH	4.87	1.61	**49.39**	6.47	2.70	**-8.6**
Immunome	IMNM	3.26	1.05	**47.51**	13.92	2.09	**-74.2**
Aurinia Pharmaceuticals	AUPH	5.94	1.62	**37.50**	22.65	4.07	**-73.3**
Petros Pharmaceuticals	PTPI	3.19	0.86	**36.91**	33.70	1.91	**-89.2**
Aileron Therapeutics	ALRN	3.20	0.83	**35.02**	15.00	1.79	**-73.5**
Scilex Holding	SCLX	5.31	1.32	**33.17**	11.17	2.87	**-47.2**
Portage Biotech	PRTG	6.95	1.66	**31.40**	12.14	4.17	**-38.9**
Charah Solutions	CHRA	7.09	1.69	**31.30**	58.10	3.90	**-85.2**
Membership Collective	MCG	4.77	1.03	**27.54**	13.06	3.08	**-59.8**
Dada Nexus ADR	DADA	8.82	1.85	**26.54**	13.02	2.98	**-23.0**
ACM Research Cl A	ACMR	9.60	1.89	**24.51**	30.53	5.46	**-65.9**
NaaS Technology ADR	NAAS	4.81	0.92	**23.65**	22.45	2.08	**85.9**

Percentage Losers

Company	Symbol	Latest Session Close	Net chg	% chg	52-Week High	Low	% chg
Biora Therapeutics	BIOR	2.35	-0.94	**-28.63**	57.75	2.28	**-95.8**
Palisade Bio	PALI	3.82	-1.38	**-26.54**	81.00	1.74	**-94.7**
Moolec Science	MLEC	9.10	-3.00	**-24.79**	42.25	6.55	**-7.7**
Lanvin Group Holdings	LANV	6.90	-2.22	**-24.34**	22.81	4.19	**-29.0**
Inter	INTR	1.84	-0.53	**-22.36**	4.63	1.72	**...**
Mammoth Energy Services	TUSK	6.73	-1.92	**-22.20**	8.79	1.35	**243.4**
BioVie	BIVI	6.17	-1.60	**-20.59**	14.38	1.33	**25.9**
Sonendo	SONX	2.26	-0.57	**-20.14**	8.45	0.86	**-58.1**
ProSh Ult Bbg Nat Gas	BOIL	14.28	-3.50	**-19.69**	140.50	13.92	**-45.6**
PDS Biotechnology	PDSB	10.62	-2.58	**-19.55**	13.65	2.89	**37.7**
Direxion TSLA Bull 1.5X	TSLL	5.09	-1.16	**-18.56**	28.08	4.85	**...**
Valens Semiconductor	VLN	4.40	-0.97	**-18.06**	7.63	2.71	**-42.1**
G Medical Innovations	GMVD	2.70	-0.58	**-17.68**	235.90	1.94	**-95.7**
Immuneering	IMRX	4.01	-0.84	**-17.32**	17.36	3.74	**-74.1**
Arqit Quantum	ARQQ	3.00	-0.61	**-16.90**	20.81	2.94	**-84.8**

Most Active Stocks

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	% chg from 65-day avg	Latest Session Close	% chg	52-Week High	Low
Tesla	TSLA	**230,145**	122.9	108.10	**-12.24**	402.67	104.64
Mullen Automotive	MULN	**216,859**	12.4	0.32	**12.41**	5.84	0.18
Lucira Health	LHDX	**195,268**	58646.5	0.60	**440.05**	9.00	0.11
ProShares UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	**178,648**	-20.7	16.91	**-2.25**	85.95	16.10
Apple	AAPL	**111,789**	31.6	125.07	**-3.74**	182.94	124.17
Direxion Dly SCOND 3 BL	SOXL	**97,055**	-20.6	9.36	**-3.21**	74.21	6.21
ProSh UltraPro Shrt QQQ	SQQQ	**85,174**	-34.1	55.15	**2.11**	69.55	28.60
SPDR S&P 500	SPY	**74,069**	-16.6	380.82	**-0.42**	479.98	348.11
Amazon.com	AMZN	**70,676**	-11.0	85.82	**2.17**	171.40	81.69
Jasper Therapeutics	JSPR	**62,344**	87604.0	2.74	**467.41**	8.06	0.39

* Volumes of 100,000 shares or more are rounded to the nearest thousand

Volume Movers

Ranked by change from 65-day average*

Company	Symbol	Volume (000)	% chg from 65-day avg	Latest Session Close	% chg	52-Week High	Low
ReShape Lifesciences	RSLS	12,332	**40253**	15.66	**132.34**	91.25	5.40
Invsc DWA Financial Mom	PFI	556	**9828**	40.54	**-0.48**	54.81	37.80
NuZee	NUZE	577	**7996**	10.55	**21.97**	144.55	7.70
Pioneer Merger Cl A	PACX	10,629	**7579**	10.19	**0.49**	10.33	9.72
Marlin Technology Cl A	FINM	3,830	**4685**	10.13	**0.00**	10.14	9.71
ROC Energy Acquisition	ROC	984	**4159**	10.26	**0.15**	10.65	9.82
Bannix Acquisition	BNIX	209	**3754**	10.18	**0.10**	10.62	9.81
Gorilla Technology Group	GRRR	2,481	**3605**	9.63	**18.74**	51.00	2.62
Twin Ridge Cap Acqn Cl A	TRCA	917	**3534**	10.10	**0.10**	10.15	9.67
AMCI Acquisition II	AMCI	679	**3223**	9.99	**0.10**	10.05	9.58

* Common stocks priced at $2 a share or more with an average volume over 65 trading days of at least 5,000 shares †Has traded fewer than 65 days

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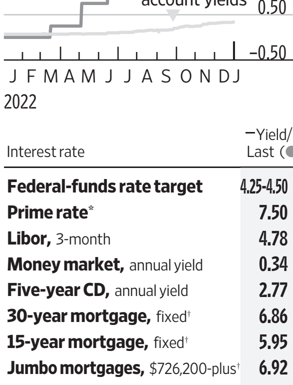
CREDIT MARKETS

Consumer Rates and Returns to Investor

U.S. consumer rates

A consumer rate against its benchmark over the past year



Selected rates

Money Market/Savings Accts

Bankrate.com avg†:

TAB Bank	**3.64%**
Ogden, UT	800-355-3063
BrioDirect	**3.75%**
Montebello, NY	877-369-2746
MyBankingDirect	**4.05%**
Westbury, NY	516-683-4100
UFB Direct	**4.11%**
San Diego, CA	877-472-9200
CFG Community Bank	**4.15%**
Baltimore, MD	888-205-8388

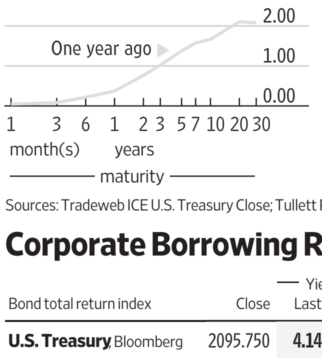
Interest rate	Yield/Rate (%) Last (●)	Week ago	52-Week Range (%) Low	High	3-yr chg (pct pts)
Federal-funds rate target	**4.25-4.50**	4.25-4.50	0.00	4.50	**2.75**
Prime rate*	**7.50**	7.50	3.25	7.50	**2.75**
Libor, 3-month	**4.78**	4.73	0.22	4.78	**2.91**
Money market, annual yield	**0.34**	0.33	0.07	0.34	**-0.23**
Five-year CD, annual yield	**2.77**	2.76	0.42	2.77	**1.36**
30-year mortgage, fixed†	**6.86**	6.72	3.32	7.41	**3.08**
15-year mortgage, fixed†	**5.95**	5.75	2.60	6.53	**2.64**
Jumbo mortgages, $726,200-plus†	**6.92**	6.80	3.34	7.44	**2.80**
Five-year adj mortgage (ARM)†	**5.49**	5.41	2.82	5.60	**1.54**
New-car loan, 48-month	**6.53**	6.53	3.41	6.69	**2.07**

Bankrate.com rates based on survey of over 4,800 online banks. *Base rate posted by 70% of the nation's largest banks.† Excludes closing costs.

Sources: FactSet; Dow Jones Market Data; Bankrate.com

Treasury yield curve

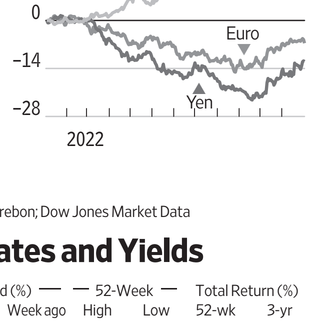
Yield to maturity of current bills, notes and bonds



Sources: Tradeweb ICE U.S. Treasury Close; Tullett Prebon; Dow Jones Market Data

Forex Race

Yen, euro vs. dollar; dollar vs. major U.S. trading partners



Corporate Borrowing Rates and Yields

Bond total return index	Close	Yield (%) Last	Week ago	52-Week High	Low	Total Return (%) 52-wk	3-yr
U.S. Treasury, Bloomberg	2095.750	**4.140**	4.160	4.560	1.340	**–11.358**	–2.742
U.S. Treasury Long, Bloomberg	3190.570	**4.020**	4.080	4.570	2.070	**–26.445**	–7.758
Aggregate, Bloomberg	1956.050	**4.660**	4.660	5.210	1.860	**–11.988**	–2.772
Fixed-Rate MBS, Bloomberg	1943.610	**4.710**	4.670	5.380	2.070	**–11.051**	–3.128
High Yield 100, ICE BofA	3133.822	**8.132**	8.019	8.753	3.885	**–9.536**	–0.696
Muni Master, ICE BofA	558.038	**3.243**	3.255	3.936	0.928	**–7.258**	–0.584
EMBI Global, J.P. Morgan	771.081	**7.731**	7.717	9.159	5.012	**–15.649**	–4.415

Sources: J.P. Morgan; Bloomberg Fixed Income Indices; ICE Data Services

CURRENCIES & COMMODITIES

Currencies

U.S.-dollar foreign-exchange rates in late New York trading

Country/currency	Tues in US$	per US$	US$ vs, YTD chg (%)
Americas			
Argentina peso	.0056	178.3362	**0.9**
Brazil real	.1825	5.4800	**3.7**
Canada dollar	.7314	1.3672	**0.9**
Chile peso	.001159	862.85	**1.7**
Colombia peso	.000206	4861.00	**0.25**
Ecuador US dollar	1	1	**unch**
Mexico peso	.0515	19.4070	**–0.4**
Uruguay peso	.02512	39.8150	**–0.4**
Asia-Pacific			
Australian dollar	.6727	1.4865	**1.3**
China yuan	.1446	6.9151	**0.2**
Hong Kong dollar	.1280	7.8137	**0.1**
India rupee	.01208	82.784	**0.04**
Indonesia rupiah	.0000641	15598	**0.2**
Japan yen	.007633	131.01	**–0.1**
Kazakhstan tenge	.002161	462.80	**–0.01**
Macau pataca	.1242	8.0540	**0.1**
Malaysia ringgit	.2270	4.4060	**0.02**
New Zealand dollar	.6251	1.5997	**1.6**
Pakistan rupee	.00441	227.000	**0.1**
Philippines peso	.0179	55.940	**0.5**
Singapore dollar	.7433	1.3453	**0.3**
South Korea won	.0007815	1279.52	**1.4**
Sri Lanka rupee	.0027360	365.50	**–0.5**
Taiwan dollar	.03254	30.733	**0.3**
Thailand baht	.02909	34.380	**–0.7**
Vietnam dong	.00004249	23538	**–0.4**
Europe			
Czech Rep. koruna	.04383	22.816	**1.1**
Denmark krone	.1418	7.0508	**1.5**
Euro area euro	1.0550	.9479	**1.5**
Hungary forint	.002635	379.55	**1.7**
Iceland krona	.006956	143.76	**1.6**
Norway krone	.0991	10.0883	**2.8**
Poland zloty	.2256	4.4331	**1.2**
Russia ruble	.01382	72.350	**–1.9**
Sweden krona	.0946	10.5705	**1.3**
Switzerland franc	1.0684	.9360	**1.2**
Turkey lira	.0534	18.7239	**0.2**
Ukraine hryvnia	.0271	36.8500	**unch**
UK pound	1.1967	.8356	**1.1**
Middle East/Africa			
Bahrain dinar	2.6529	.3770	**–0.03**
Egypt pound	.0404	24.7776	**0.1**
Israel shekel	.2832	3.5316	**0.2**
Kuwait dinar	3.2651	.3063	**0.1**
Oman sul rial	2.5974	.3850	**unch**
Qatar rial	.2724	3.671	**0.1**
Saudi Arabia riyal	.2660	3.7601	**0.1**
South Africa rand	.0588	17.0135	**–0.1**

	Close	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
WSJ Dollar Index	97.40	0.69	0.71	**0.87**

Sources: Tullett Prebon, Dow Jones Market Data

Commodities

	Close	Tuesday Net chg	% Chg	52-Week High	Low	% Chg	YTD % chg
DJ Commodity	**1026.13**	-22.57	**-2.15**	1264.48	959.83	**6.91**	-2.15
Refinitiv/CC CRB Index	**270.18**	-7.57	**-2.73**	329.59	235.51	**14.72**	-2.73
Crude oil, $ per barrel	**76.93**	-3.33	**-4.15**	123.70	71.02	**-0.08**	-4.15
Natural gas, $/MMBtu	**3.988**	-0.487	**-10.88**	9.680	3.717	**7.29**	-10.88
Gold, $ per troy oz.	**1839.70**	20.00	**1.10**	2040.10	1623.30	**1.42**	1.10

Buyout Firms Face Squeeze As Cheap Funding Dries Up

By Rod James

Private-equity managers have modified the typical buyout playbook by acquiring minority stakes in target companies as a way of coping with a lack of acquisition financing.

Growing numbers of managers are settling for positions of less than 50% with the option of taking a controlling stake later, according to several people with knowledge of market trends. The later transaction could be on a preset date or it could depend on whether the target company hits performance milestones following the initial deal, the people said.

When debt was cheap, buyout firms would typically acquire a majority stake in a target business and finance 70% or more of the cost with debt. But leverage has grown increasingly expensive over the past year as interest rates have risen.

Now many deal makers are buying a minority stake with plans to graduate to a majority interest and hoping to refinance if debt costs recede, the people said.

"Firms are showing flexibility so they can continue to stay in the game and do deals but not be burdened with a long-standing high interest rate on the debt," said Jonathan Melmed, partner and co-chair of law firm King & Spalding LLP's global private-equity and M&A practice.

Private-equity firms often will make all or part of their investments in the form of convertible preferred securities, which can be turned into equity in the event the firms exercise their option to buy a majority stake, Mr. Melmed added.

Some private-equity firms are pushing for the right to sell their minority interest back to the seller or to a third party when declining to exercise the option to buy control, added Chris Sheaffer, a partner and global vice-chair of law firm Reed Smith LLP's private-equity group.

Deals that have gotten done have mostly featured less leverage than usual.

Buyout shops also are negotiating aggressive provisions that let the firm, even as a minority shareholder, trigger a sale of the company in the event the selling stakeholder can't buy it out, Mr. Sheaffer said. Typically such provisions let majority shareholders force minority investors to sell out provided they receive the same price, terms and conditions as the majority shareholders, according to several people familiar with the agreements.

"You can't predict what things will look like a couple years from now. [Sponsors] are trying to build enough levers so they can pull something depending on what makes sense in the market," Mr. Sheaffer said.

The cost and scarcity of leveraged finance is indicative of the end of the cheap-money era, which has prevailed since the U.S. Federal Reserve slashed interest rates in the wake of the Great Financial Crisis, according to several market participants. According to data from Refinitiv, there were $385 billion of private-equity-sponsored loans issued in the U.S. market in 2022 to Dec. 21, compared with around $748 billion in all of 2021. This doesn't include issuance by credit funds, for which there isn't yet accurate data.

Macroeconomic factors, from persistently high inflation to rising interest rates and fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have created uncertainty around the performance and valuation of businesses. This has led to increased risk aversion on the part of lenders, particularly banks, which have stricter standards than alternative leveraged finance providers such as private credit funds, according to several people with knowledge of market trends.

Some lenders also are encumbered by deals done at or near the top of the market last year that have since gone south. For instance, The Wall Street Journal reported in October that banks were planning to hold all $13 billion of debt supplied to finance Elon Musk's takeover of **Twitter** Inc. rather than syndicate it to avoid having to sell it at a loss.

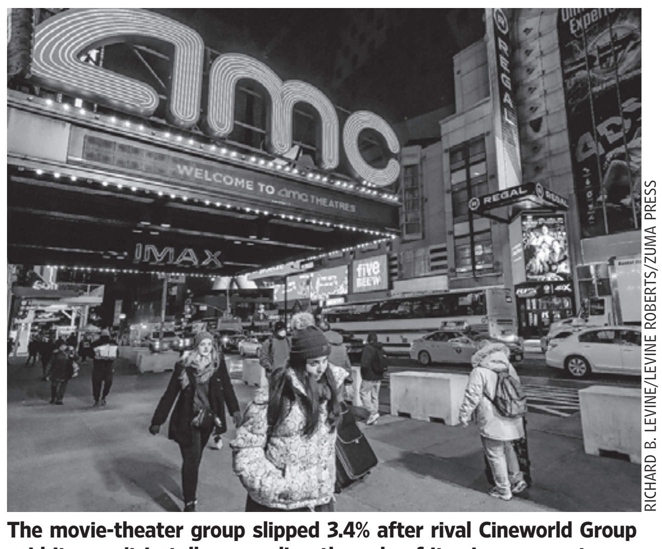
"The pig is going through the python right now," said a partner at a private-equity firm that targets distressed debt and equity deals about the glut of deals that banks are digesting.

Tightened leverage taps also have contributed to far fewer deals getting done. U.S. private-equity deals closed in 2022's second half through Nov. 15 totaled $102 billion, tumbling around 63% from $273 billion in the first half, according to Preqin Ltd. data.

Deals that have gotten done have mostly featured less leverage than usual or none at all. For example, in November, buyout firm **CVC Capital Partners** sold insurance brokerage April Group to **KKR** & Co. in a deal that involved no debt, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Buying minority stakes with a view to taking control later and doing deals with no debt now are both predicated on financing becoming cheaper and more plentiful in the near future, an inherently risky approach.

"You need to have a very strong capital markets team that can go to the investors and say 'I will be able to raise this financing in the next three months,' which not everyone has the confidence of doing," said Simona Maellare, global co-head of the alternative capital group at investment bank UBS Group AG.



RICHARD B. LEVINE/LEVINE ROBERTS/ZUMA PRESS

The movie-theater group slipped 3.4% after rival Cineworld Group said it wasn't in talks regarding the sale of its cinema assets.

Stocks Start Year Shakily

Continued from page B1

the longest streak without a record since a 285-session stretch ending in July 2016, according to Dow Jones Market Data. The index is down about 20% in the past year.

TUESDAY'S MARKETS

The WSJ Dollar Index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of currencies, gained 0.7%.

In energy markets, Brent crude, the international benchmark for oil prices, fell 4.4% to $82.10 a barrel. Analysts blamed a strengthening dollar and concerns that businesses may not stock up fuel inventories in anticipation of a recession.

Overseas, the pan-continental Stoxx Europe 600 climbed 1.2%.

Early Wednesday, Japan's Nikkei 225 was down 1.4%, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index was up 1.8%, the Shanghai Composite was up 0.3% and South Korea's Kospi was was up 1.2%. S&P 500 futures rose 0.1%.

AUCTION RESULTS

Here are the results of Tuesday's Treasury auctions. All bids are awarded at a single price at the market-clearing yield. Rates are determined by the difference between that price and the face value.

	13-Week	26-Week
Applications	$141,965,826,400	$130,789,184,300
Accepted bids	$60,930,366,400	$50,775,384,300
" noncomp	$1,843,744,200	$1,854,438,500
" foreign noncomp	$990,000,000	$836,000,000
Auction price (rate)	98.885250	97.656750
	(4.410%)	(4.635%)
	4.522%	4.812%
Bids at clearing yield accepted	42.28%	19.20%
	912796YN3	912796ZS1

Both issues are dated Jan. 5, 2023. The 13-week bills mature on April 6, 2023; the 26-week bills mature on July 6, 2023.

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Tesla Stock Declines 12% in Worst Fall in Over 2 Years

BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

In a year-end push, the EV maker offered discounts to many buyers who agreed to take delivery before January.

By Meghan Bobrowsky

Tesla Inc. shares fell sharply on the first day of 2023 trading after the electric-vehicle maker posted disappointing fourth-quarter delivery figures, fueling demand concerns and keeping pressure on a stock that is fresh off its worst-ever annual performance.

Tesla stock closed down 12% on Tuesday at $108.10. The drop was its largest in more than two years, with shares closing at their lowest level since Aug. 13, 2020. Tesla's shares fell 65% last year, and the company has now lost more than $950 billion in value since the stock hit a peak in November 2021.

"We expect challenging headlines around demand softening and associated price cuts to continue," Deutsche Bank analysts said in a note Tuesday.

Elon Musk's electric-vehicle maker said Monday that it delivered about 1.31 million vehicles last year, up roughly 40% from 2021. The total fell short of Wall Street estimates that had already come down throughout the year. Tesla also missed its initial goal of increasing deliveries by 50% or more, though it previously had signaled it would likely fall short.

Tesla, which remains the world's largest auto maker by value, didn't respond to a request for comment. "Long-term fundamentals are extremely strong. Short-term market madness is unpredictable," Mr. Musk, the company's chief executive, tweeted on Friday.

Mr. Musk suggested last month that the higher interest-rate environment was hurting vehicle demand.

In a year-end sales push, Tesla offered discounts to many buyers who agreed to take delivery of vehicles before January.

Wall Street is curbing its expectations for Tesla for the year. Deutsche Bank cut its projection of Tesla's full-year deliveries to 1.84 million vehicles, or roughly 40% annual growth, below the average 50% growth that Tesla has been targeting. Goldman Sachs cut its 2023 Tesla delivery forecast to 1.8 million vehicles, even as its analysts said in a note that deliveries should reaccelerate in the second quarter.

Tesla on Monday said delivery totals were hampered by changes in how the company produces cars and distributes them to customers.

◆ Heard on the Street: Sales miss puts spotlight on margins..... B12

New Highs and Lows

Continued From Page B7

Stock	Sym	52-Wk Hi/Lo	% Chg
FirstSavingsFin	FSFG	19.95	-0.3
FirstSeacoastBncp	FSEA	9.36	-1.8
FordMotor6%Nts	FpC	21.05	-0.7
FordMotor6.2%Nt	FpB	21.70	-0.1
FormulaSys	FORTY	70.60	-0.4
ForwardIndustries	FORD	1.03	-3.9
FoxWayneEnts	FOXWU	9.85	-3.0
FreshVineWine	VINE	0.90	0.1
FutureHealthESG	FHLTU	9.67	-3.9
GeniusGroup	GNS	0.30	-4.6
GinkgoBioworks	DNA	1.54	-6.5
GladstonePfdB	LANDO	23.13	...
GlShipLeasePfdB	GSLpB	23.50	-2.4
GreatLakesDredge	GLDD	5.42	-3.2
HealthcareAI Wt	HAIAW	0.03	-16.7
HealthwellAcqnIWt	HWELW	0.01	6.3
Informatica	INFA	15.07	-5.3
InterlinkElec	LINK	7.60	-2.8
IntrepidPotash	IPI	27.70	-2.5
InvitatHomes	INVH	28.89	-1.3
KenonHoldings	KEN	30.75	-6.3
KilroyRealty	KRC	37.57	-1.0
LL Flooring	LL	5.36	-2.1
LM Funding	LMFA	0.55	1.5
LaredoPetrol	LPI	47.11	-5.8
LifeStorage	LSI	95.18	-2.3
LiliumWt	LILMW	0.06	3.2
LiminalBioSci	LMNL	0.31	1.5
LithiumAmericas	LAC	17.67	-5.9
Livent	LTHM	18.26	-4.5
Lucid	LCID	6.14	-9.7
LuminarTech	LAZR	4.66	-5.3
LutherBurbank	LBC	10.96	-0.7
MVB Financial	MVBF	21.35	-1.7
MarlinTechWt	FINMW	0.00	87.5
MoolecScience	MLEC	6.55	-24.8
MountainI Wt	MCAAW	0.01	-60.7
MultiPlan	MPLN	1.03	-9.6
NGL EnergyPfdB	NGLpB	8.73	-2.9
NatlStorage	NSA	34.90	-2.6
Nayax	NYAX	17.59	-1.5
NewConceptEner	GBR	1.03	-2.4
NovoIntSci	NVOS	0.17	-9.2
Novonix	NVX	3.82	-4.9
OneConnectFin	OCFT	4.50	-12.6
Ontrak	OTRK	0.34	-2.1
OrientalCulture	OCG	0.48	7.7
PCB Bancorp	PCB	17.59	1.0
Paltalk	PALT	1.28	6.1
PublicStorage	PSA	270.67	-2.1
PurpleBiotech	PPBT	1.32	-1.4
QilianIntl	QLI	0.70	4.2
RamacoRscs	METC	8.31	-4.1
ReadyCapPfdC	RCpC	16.87	-0.3
RedRiverBcshs	RRBI	46.86	-6.8
Rivian	RIVN	17.08	-5.9
RoseHillAcqn	ROSEU	9.40	-1.4
SES AI	SES	3.03	-2.9
SHF	SHFS	1.46	-17.2
SachemCapital	SACH	3.16	-4.2
SatellogicWt	SATLW	0.18	-18.5
SeaStarMedical	ICU	3.76	-6.9
ShenandoahTel	SHEN	15.62	3.0
Sigmatron	SGMA	3.63	-2.9
SplashBeverageWt	SBEV.WS	0.09	-33.3
SpringBigWt	SBIGW	0.02	-5.2
StandardLithium	SLI	2.83	-3.7
TC Energy	TRP	38.82	-2.1
TIM	TIMB	10.69	-8.1
TatTechnologies	TATT	4.97	-2.6
TelefonicaBras	VIV	6.49	-6.7
TempoAutomation	TMPO	0.70	-2.3
Tesla	TSLA	104.64	-12.2
TriumphFinlPfdC	TFINP	22.00	2.0
26CapAcqn	ADERU	9.78	...
UnitedBancorpOH	UBCP	14.24	0.3
UpHealth	UPH	1.59	9.8
ViaRenewablesPfdA	VIASP	22.22	-2.0
Viad	VVI	23.90	-0.9
Worksport	WKSP	0.95	-2.5
XerisBiopharma	XERS	1.11	-15.8

Biggest 1,000 Stocks | WSJ.com/stocks

Continued From Page B9

Stock	Sym	Close	Net Chg
Oracle	ORCL	83.72	1.98
Orange	ORAN	10.11	0.23
Organon	OGN	28.07	0.14
Orix	IX	81.03	0.51
OtisWorldwide	OTIS	79.12	0.81
Ovintiv	**OVV**	**47.00**	**-3.71**
OwensCorning	OC	86.28	1.50
PG&E	PCG	15.68	-0.58
PNC Fin	PNC	159.52	1.58
POSCO	PKX	53.44	-1.03
PPG Ind	PPG	126.84	1.10
PPL	PPL	29.20	-0.02
PTC	PTC	119.65	-0.39
Paccar	PCAR	98.43	-0.54
PackagingCpAm	PKG	129.06	1.15
PalantirTech	PLTR	6.39	-0.03
PaloAltoNtwks	PANW	138.45	-1.09
ParamountB	PARA	17.07	0.19
ParamountA	PARAA	19.83	0.22
ParkerHannifin	PH	291.76	0.76
Paychex	PAYX	115.81	0.25
PaycomSoftware	PAYC	304.63	-5.68
Paylocity	PCTY	192.53	-1.73
PayPal	PYPL	74.58	3.36
Pearson	PSO	11.25	-0.02
PembinaPipeline	PBA	33.02	-0.93
PenskeAuto	PAG	113.70	-1.23
Pentair	PNR	45.20	0.22
Penumbra	PEN	221.20	-1.26
PepsiCo	PEP	179.41	-1.25
PerformanceFood	PFGC	56.89	-1.50
PerkinElmer	PKI	141.14	0.92
PetroleoBrasil	**PBR**	**9.50**	**-1.15**
PetroleoBrasilA	**PBR.A**	**8.23**	**-1.06**
Pfizer	PFE	51.26	0.02
PhilipMorris	PM	101.30	0.09
Phillips66	PSX	101.03	-3.05
Pinduoduo	PDD	84.53	2.98
PinnacleWest	PNW	74.63	-1.41
Pinterest	**PINS**	**22.89**	**-1.39**
PioneerNatRscs	PXD	220.25	-8.14
PlainsAllAmPipe	PAA	11.55	-0.21
PlainsGP	PAGP	12.19	-0.25
PlanetFitness	PLNT	78.15	-0.65
PlugPower	PLUG	12.18	-0.19
Pool	POOL	300.83	-1.50
PrincipalFin	PFG	83.77	-0.15
ProcoreTech	PCOR	46.83	-0.35
Procter&Gamble	PG	151.57	0.01
Progressive	PGR	130.14	0.43
Prologis	PLD	112.69	-0.04
ProsperityBcshs	PB	72.14	-0.54
PrudentialFin	PRU	99.48	0.02
Prudential	PUK	28.15	0.67
PublicServiceEnt	PEG	62.05	0.78
▼ PublicStorage	PSA	274.18	-6.01
PulteGroup	PHM	46.20	0.67
PureStorage	PSTG	27.15	0.39
Qiagen	QGEN	49.93	0.06
Qorvo	QRVO	89.14	-1.50
Qualcomm	QCOM	107.20	-2.74
QualtricsIntl	XM	10.18	-0.20
QuantaServices	PWR	140.61	-1.89
QuestDiag	DGX	155.77	-0.67
R S			
RELX	RELX	27.78	0.06
RH	**RH**	**253.28**	**-13.91**
RPM	RPM	97.85	0.40
RalphLauren	RL	109.11	3.44
RaymondJames	RJF	106.11	-0.74
RaytheonTech	RTX	100.81	-0.11
RealtyIncome	O	63.80	0.37
RegalRexnord	RRX	120.72	0.74
RegencyCtrs	REG	62.83	0.33
RegenPharm	REGN	720.47	-1.02
RegionsFin	RF	21.47	-0.09
ReinsGrp	RGA	141.33	-0.76
RelianceSteel	RS	201.39	-1.05
RenaissanceRe	RNR	185.82	1.59
RentokilInit	RTO	31.21	0.40
Repligen	RGEN	162.00	-7.31
RepublicSvcs	RSG	128.68	-0.31
ResMed	RMD	209.11	0.98
RestaurantBrands	QSR	64.50	-0.17
RexfordIndlRealty	REXR	54.31	-0.33
ReynoldsCnsmr	REYN	29.93	-0.05
RioTinto	RIO	71.06	-0.14
RitchieBros	RBA	57.77	-0.06
▼ **Rivian**	**RIVN**	**17.34**	**-1.09**
RobertHalf	RHI	73.59	-0.24
Robinhood	HOOD	8.08	-0.06
Roblox	RBLX	27.85	-0.61
RocketCos.	RKT	7.09	0.09
Rockwell	ROK	261.42	3.85
RogersComm B	RCI	46.86	0.02
Rollins	ROL	36.55	0.01
RoperTech	ROP	434.46	2.37
RossStores	ROST	115.83	-0.24
RoyalBkCanada	RY	93.67	-0.35
RoyalCaribbean	RCL	48.71	-0.72
RoyalGold	RGLD	116.83	4.11
RoyaltyPharma	RPRX	39.40	-0.12
RyanSpecialty	RYAN	41.76	0.25
Ryanair	RYAAY	74.52	-0.24
SAP	SAP	103.98	0.79
S&P Global	SPGI	335.17	0.23
SBA Comm	SBAC	281.74	1.43
SEI Investments	SEIC	59.08	0.78
SK Telecom	SKM	20.62	0.03
SS&C Tech	SSNC	52.46	0.40
StoreCapital	STOR	32.09	0.03
SVB Fin	SIVB	225.22	-4.92
Salesforce	CRM	134.78	2.19
Samsara	IOT	11.92	-0.51
Sanofi	SNY	49.00	0.57
SareptaTherap	SRPT	124.84	-4.74
Sasol	SSL	15.64	-0.07
Schlumberger	SLB	51.50	-1.96
SchwabC	SCHW	81.94	-1.32
Sea	SE	52.98	0.95
Seagate	STX	51.88	-0.73
Seagen	SGEN	128.70	0.19
SealedAir	SEE	50.27	0.39
Sempra	SRE	153.71	-0.83
SensataTechs	ST	40.61	0.23
ServiceCorp	SCI	67.72	-1.42
ServiceNow	NOW	385.50	-2.77
ShawComm B	SJR	28.26	-0.52
Shell	SHEL	55.98	-0.97
SherwinWilliams	SHW	239.37	2.04
ShinhanFin	SHG	27.48	-0.45
ShockwaveMed	**SWAV**	**192.04**	**-13.57**
Shopify	SHOP	35.68	0.97
Sibanye-Stillwater	SBSW	10.84	0.18
SignatureBank	SBNY	113.17	-2.05
SignifyHealth	SGFY	28.55	-0.11
SimonProperty	SPG	117.54	0.06
SiriusXM	SIRI	5.79	-0.05
SkechersUSA	SKX	41.83	-0.12
Skyworks	SWKS	90.50	-0.63
SmithAO	AOS	58.92	1.68
Smith&Nephew	SNN	27.29	0.40
Smucker	SJM	158.99	0.53
Snap	SNAP	8.85	-0.10
SnapOn	SNA	229.38	0.89
Snowflake	**SNOW**	**135.50**	**-8.04**
SOQUIMICH	SQM	76.77	-3.07
SolarEdgeTech	SEDG	285.43	2.16
Sony	SONY	76.65	0.37
Southern	SO	71.90	0.49
SoCopper	SCCO	61.63	1.24
SouthwestAir	LUV	32.60	-1.07
SouthwesternEner	**SWN**	**5.50**	**-0.35**
Splunk	SPLK	86.82	0.73
Spotify	SPOT	81.90	2.95
StanleyBlackDck	SWK	76.19	1.07
Starbucks	SBUX	100.83	1.63
StateStreet	STT	78.40	0.83
SteelDynamics	STLD	95.17	-2.53
Stellantis	STLA	14.59	0.39
Steris	STE	185.58	0.89
StifelFinancial	SF	59.47	1.10
STMicroelec	STM	35.35	-0.22
Stryker	SYK	246.03	1.54
▲ SumitomoMits	SMFG	8.09	0.07
SunComms	SUI	139.92	-3.08
SunLifeFinancial	SLF	46.40	-0.02
SuncorEnergy	SU	30.21	-1.52
Suzano	SUZ	9.13	-0.11
SynchronyFin	SYF	32.39	-0.47
Synopsys	SNPS	319.68	0.39
Sysco	SYY	75.99	-0.46
T U V			
▼ TC Energy	TRP	39.01	-0.85
TD Synnex	SNX	96.61	1.90
TE Connectivity	TEL	114.66	-0.14
Telus	TU	19.27	-0.04
TFI Intl	TFII	100.13	-0.11
TJX	TJX	79.01	-0.59
T-MobileUS	TMUS	139.04	-0.96
TPG	TPG	28.36	0.53
TRowePrice	TROW	109.15	0.09
TaiwanSemi	TSM	74.03	-0.46
TakeTwoSoftware	TTWO	103.11	-1.02
▲ TakedaPharm	TAK	15.76	0.16
Tapestry	TPR	38.83	0.75
TargaResources	TRGP	70.65	-2.85
Target	TGT	151.73	2.69
TataMotors	TTM	23.58	0.47
TeckRscsB	TECK	36.60	-1.22
TeledyneTech	TDY	400.77	0.86
Teleflex	TFX	249.85	0.22
Ericsson	ERIC	5.94	0.10
▼ **TelefonicaBras**	**VIV**	**6.49**	**-0.47**
Telefonica	TEF	3.63	0.06
TelekmIndonesia	TLK	24.40	0.55
Tenaris	TS	33.54	-1.62
▲ TencentMusic	TME	8.60	0.32
Teradyne	TER	85.93	-1.42
▼ **Tesla**	**TSLA**	**108.10**	**-15.08**
TetraTech	TTEK	143.13	-2.06
TevaPharm	TEVA	9.53	0.41
TexasInstruments	TXN	163.21	-2.01
TexasPacLand	**TPL**	**2102.61**	**-241.62**
Textron	TXT	70.26	-0.54
ThermoFisher	TMO	553.18	2.49
ThomsonReuters	TRI	115.31	1.24
3M	MMM	122.47	2.55
Toast	TOST	17.55	-0.48
Toro	TTC	113.19	-0.01
TorontoDomBk	TD	64.15	-0.61
TotalEnergies	TTE	61.44	-0.64
ToyotaMotor	TM	138.28	1.70
TractorSupply	TSCO	223.18	-1.79
TradeDesk	TTD	44.02	-0.81
Tradeweb	TW	65.34	0.41
TraneTech	TT	171.53	3.44
TransDigm	TDG	625.77	-3.88
TransUnion	TRU	59.01	2.26
Travelers	TRV	187.12	-0.37
Trimble	TRMB	50.60	0.04
Trip.com	TCOM	35.69	1.29
TruistFinl	TFC	43.63	0.60
Twilio	TWLO	50.42	1.46
TylerTech	TYL	319.33	-3.08
TysonFoods	TSN	63.60	1.35
UBS Group	UBS	18.96	0.29
UDR	UDR	38.59	-0.14
UGI	UGI	38.05	0.98
U-Haul	UHAL	59.57	-0.62
U-HaulDeCo.SeriesN	UHAL/B	55.00	0.02
US Foods	USFD	34.12	0.10
Uber	UBER	25.36	0.63
Ubiquiti	UI	270.37	-3.16
UiPath	PATH	12.29	-0.42
UltaBeauty	ULTA	471.63	2.56
Unilever	UL	50.47	0.12
UnionPacific	UNP	207.58	0.51
UnitedAirlines	UAL	37.21	-0.49
UnitedMicro	UMC	6.61	0.08
UPS B	UPS	175.28	1.44
UnitedRentals	URI	356.71	1.29
US Bancorp	USB	44.64	1.03
UnitedTherap	UTHR	273.32	-4.77
UnitedHealth	UNH	518.64	-11.54
UnitySoftware	**U**	**26.92**	**-1.67**
UniversalHealthB	UHS	142.61	1.72
UnumGroup	UNM	40.25	-0.78
VF	VFC	27.74	0.13
VICI Prop	VICI	31.75	-0.65
VailResorts	MTN	240.05	1.70
Vale	VALE	16.35	-0.62
ValeroEnergy	**VLO**	**120.04**	**-6.82**
ValmontInds	VMI	324.20	-6.47
VeevaSystems	VEEV	159.62	-1.76
Ventas	VTR	45.37	0.32
VeriSign	VRSN	201.92	-3.52
VeriskAnalytics	VRSK	177.34	0.92
Verizon	VZ	40.12	0.72
VertexPharm	VRTX	286.02	-2.76
Viatris	VTRS	11.38	0.25
▲ **Vipshop**	**VIPS**	**14.37**	**0.73**
Visa	V	207.39	-0.37
Vistra	VST	22.27	-0.93
VMware	VMW	122.32	-0.44
Vodafone	VOD	10.36	0.24
VulcanMatls	VMC	176.10	0.99
W X Y Z			
WEC Energy	WEC	94.16	0.40
WEX	WEX	161.94	-1.71
W.P.Carey	WPC	78.27	0.12
WPP	WPP	50.09	0.93
Wabtec	WAB	99.76	-0.05
WalgreensBoots	WBA	37.19	-0.17
Walmart	WMT	143.60	1.81
WarnerBrosA	WBD	9.54	0.06
WarnerMusic	WMG	35.35	0.33
WasteConnections	WCN	131.71	-0.85
WasteMgt	WM	157.03	0.15
Waters	WAT	345.59	3.01
Watsco	WSO	255.38	5.98
WebsterFin	WBS	46.84	-0.50
WellsFargo	WFC	41.79	0.50
Welltower	WELL	66.95	1.40
WescoIntl	WCC	124.73	-0.47
WestPharmSvcs	WST	234.41	-0.94
WestAllianceBcp	WAL	58.52	-1.04
WesternDigital	WDC	31.41	-0.14
WesternMidstrm	WES	25.76	-1.09
Westlake	WLK	99.03	-3.51
WestRock	WRK	35.48	0.32
Weyerhaeuser	WY	30.86	-0.14
WheatonPrecMet	WPM	40.57	1.49
Whirlpool	WHR	143.73	2.27
Williams	WMB	32.15	-0.75
Williams-Sonoma	WSM	114.07	-0.85
WillisTowers	WTW	245.18	0.60
WillScotMobile	WSC	44.83	-0.34
Wipro	WIT	4.71	0.05
Wolfspeed	WOLF	67.22	-1.82
WoodsideEnergy	WDS	23.24	-0.97
WooriFin	WF	27.17	-0.36
Workday	WDAY	169.35	2.02
WyndhamHtls	WH	69.92	-1.39
WynnResorts	WYNN	85.61	3.14
XP	**XP**	**13.82**	**-1.52**
XcelEnergy	XEL	70.07	-0.04
XPeng	XPEV	10.18	0.24
Xylem	XYL	110.76	0.19
▲ **YPF**	**YPF**	**8.71**	**-0.48**
YumBrands	YUM	126.96	-1.12
YumChina	YUMC	56.42	1.77
ZTO Express	ZTO	27.57	0.70
ZebraTech	ZBRA	260.20	3.79
Zillow A	**ZG**	**32.82**	**1.61**
Zillow C	Z	33.68	1.47
ZimmerBiomet	ZBH	127.28	-0.22
ZionsBancorp	ZION	48.46	-0.70
Zoetis	ZTS	146.85	0.30
ZoomVideo	ZM	66.66	-1.08
ZoomInfoTech	ZI	29.44	-0.67
Zscaler	ZS	110.19	-1.71

Mutual Funds

Data provided by LIPPER

Top 250 mutual-funds listings for Nasdaq-published share classes by net assets.

e-Ex-distribution. **f**-Previous day's quotation. **g**-Footnotes x and s apply. **j**-Footnotes e and s apply. **k**-Recalculated by Lipper, using updated data. **p**-Distribution costs apply, 12b-1. **r**-Redemption charge may apply. **s**-Stock split or dividend. **t**-Footnotes p and r apply. **v**-Footnotes x and e apply. **x**-Ex-dividend. **z**-Footnote x, e and s apply. **NA**-Not available due to incomplete price, performance or cost data. **NE**-Not released by Lipper; data under review. **NN**-Fund not tracked. **NS**-Fund didn't exist at start of period.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Fund	NAV	Net Chg	YTD %Ret
American Century Inv			
Ultra	54.64	-0.52	-0.9
American Funds Cl A			
AmcpA	30.00	-0.08	-0.3
AMutlA	48.31	-0.12	-0.2
BalA	28.73	-0.03	-0.1
BondA	11.42	+0.04	0.4
CapIBA	62.98	-0.01	...
CapWGrA	51.52	-0.06	-0.1
EupacA	49.15	+0.12	0.2
FdInvA	60.04	-0.21	-0.3
GwthA	49.25	-0.24	-0.5
HI TrA	9.10	+0.04	0.5
ICAA	41.18	-0.08	-0.2
IncoA	22.61	-0.02	-0.1
N PerA	47.29	-0.02	...
NEcoA	43.33	-0.17	-0.4
NwWrldA	66.44	-0.02	...
SmCpA	55.95	-0.15	-0.3
TxExA	12.07	+0.03	0.3
WshA	51.81	-0.18	-0.3
Artisan Funds			
IntlVal Inst	38.91	+0.32	0.8
Baird Funds			
AggBdInst	9.63	+0.03	0.3
CorBdInst	9.90	+0.03	0.3
BlackRock Funds			
HiYldBd Inst	6.67	+0.03	0.5
BlackRock Funds A			
GlblAlloc	16.44	-0.02	-0.1
BlackRock Funds III			
iShS&P500IdxK	448.17	-1.79	-0.4
BlackRock Funds Inst			
EqtyDivd	18.33	+0.05	0.3
StratIncOpptyIns	9.22	+0.02	0.2
Bridge Builder Trust			
CoreBond	8.86	+0.04	0.5
CorePlusBond	8.73	+0.03	0.3
Intl Eq	10.82	+0.10	0.9
LargeCapGrowth	17.07	-0.02	-0.1
LargeCapValue	14.99	-0.02	-0.1
MunicipalBond	9.71	+0.02	0.2
Calamos Funds			
MktNeutI	13.75	-0.01	-0.1
Columbia Class I			
DivIncom I	28.87	-0.06	-0.2
Dimensional Fds			
5GlbFxdInc	9.84	+0.01	0.1
EmgMktVa	26.52	+0.07	0.3
EmMktCorEq	20.23	+0.09	0.4
IntlCoreEq	13.56	+0.05	0.4
IntSmCo	17.46	+0.04	0.2
IntSmVa	18.85	+0.04	0.2
LgCo	26.05	-0.10	-0.4
US CoreEq1	29.66	-0.13	-0.4
US CoreEq2	27.04	-0.11	-0.4
US Small	38.56	-0.15	-0.4
US SmCpVal	39.13	-0.16	-0.4
US TgdVal	27.25	-0.14	-0.5
USLgVa	41.35	-0.15	-0.4
Dodge & Cox			
Balanced	93.60	+0.25	0.3
GblStock	12.65	+0.04	0.3
Income	12.25	+0.06	0.5
Intl Stk	43.36	+0.25	0.6
Stock	215.65	-0.06	...
DoubleLine Funds			
TotRetBdI	8.82	+0.05	0.6
Edgewood Growth Instituti			
EdgewoodGrInst	31.35	+0.05	0.2
Fidelity			
500IdxInstPrem	132.59	-0.53	-0.4
Contrafund K6	16.75	-0.08	-0.5
ExtMktIdxInstPre	62.63	-0.39	-0.6
FidSerToMarket	12.58	-0.05	-0.4
GrowthCompanyK6	15.23	-0.16	-1.0
InflPrBdIndInsPr	9.04	+0.02	0.2
IntlIdxInstPrem	41.42	+0.23	0.6
LgCpGwId InstPre	20.65	-0.17	-0.8
MidCpInxInstPrem	25.80	-0.12	-0.5
SAIUSLgCpIndxFd	16.74	-0.07	-0.4
SeriesBondFd	8.91	+0.04	0.5
SeriesOverseas	10.91	+0.05	0.5
SerLTTreBdIdx	5.96	+0.10	1.7
SmCpIdxInstPrem	21.57	-0.13	-0.6
TMktIdxInstPrem	105.53	-0.45	-0.4
TotalMarketIndex	13.29	-0.06	-0.4
USBdIdxInstPrem	10.23	+0.05	0.5
Fidelity Freedom			
FF2020	12.79	+0.03	0.2
FF2025	11.74	+0.02	0.2
FF2030	14.66	+0.03	0.2
FF2035	12.59	+0.01	0.1
FF2040	8.89	...	...
Freedom2030 K	14.65	+0.03	0.2
Freedom2040 K	8.90	...	...
Idx2030InsPre	16.84	+0.04	0.2
Idx2035InsPre	18.75	+0.03	0.2
Idx2040InsPre	18.97	+0.01	0.1
Fidelity Invest			
Balanc	22.90	-0.02	-0.1
BluCh	111.35	-1.11	-1.0
Contra	12.05	-0.04	-0.3
CpInc	9.04	+0.02	0.3
GroCo	22.28	-0.23	-1.0
InvGrBd	9.90	+0.05	0.5
LowP	45.83	-0.36	-0.8
Magin	10.65	-0.04	-0.4
NASDAQ	130.90	-0.99	-0.8
OTC	12.77	-0.06	-0.5
Puritn	20.49	-0.01	...
SAIUSQtyIdx	15.25	-0.06	-0.4
SrsEmrgMkt	15.74	+0.12	0.8
SrsGlobal	12.41	+0.06	0.5
SrsGroCoRetail	13.64	-0.13	-0.9
SrsIntlGrw	14.32	+0.06	0.4
SrsIntlVal	10.05	+0.02	0.2
TotalBond	9.38	+0.05	0.6
Fidelity SAI			
TotalBd	8.88	+0.05	0.6
U.S.TreBdIdx	8.70	+0.05	0.6
First Eagle Funds			
GlbA	58.18	+0.21	0.4
Franklin A1			
IncomeA1	2.28	+0.01	0.4
FrankTemp/Frank Adv			
IncomeAdv	2.26	+0.01	0.4
FrankTemp/Franklin A			
Growth A	101.89	-0.29	-0.3
RisDv A	82.46	-0.13	-0.2
Guggenheim Funds Tru			
TotRtnBdFdClInst	23.34	+0.14	0.6
Harbor Funds			
CapApInst	62.31	-0.45	-0.7
Harding Loevner			
IntlEq	23.47	+0.05	0.2
Invesco Funds A			
EqIncA	9.82	...	...
Invesco Funds Y			
DevMktY	35.27	+0.31	0.9
JHF III DispVal			
DispValMCI	24.34	-0.08	-0.3
John Hancock			
BondR6	13.40	+0.07	0.5
JPMorgan I Class			
CoreBond	10.15	+0.06	0.6
EqInc	22.52	-0.05	-0.2
LgCpGwth	44.42	-0.31	-0.7
JPMorgan R Class			
CoreBond	10.16	+0.05	0.5
CorePlusBd	7.16	+0.04	0.6
Lord Abbett A			
ShtDurIncmA p	NA	...	NA
Lord Abbett I			
ShtDurInc p	NA	...	NA
Metropolitan West			
TotRetBdI	9.09	+0.05	0.6
TRBdPlan	8.52	+0.04	0.5
MFS Funds			
IIE	NA	...	NA
MFS Funds Class I			
GrowthI	NA	...	NA
ValueI	47.79	...	...
Neuberger Berman Fds			
LCVal Inst	43.01	-0.03	-0.1
Northern Funds			
StkIdx	NA	...	NA
Old Westbury Fds			
LrgCpStr	14.55	-0.03	-0.2
Parnassus Fds			
ParnEqFd	46.89	-0.03	-0.1
PGIM Funds Cl Z			
TotalReturnBond	NA	...	NA
PIMCO Fds Instl			
AllAsset	NA	...	NA
TotRt	8.50	+0.04	0.5
PIMCO Funds A			
IncomeFd	10.37	+0.02	0.2
PIMCO Funds I2			
Income	10.37	+0.02	0.2
PIMCO Funds Instl			
IncomeFd	10.37	+0.02	0.2
Price Funds			
BlChip	NA	...	NA
DivGro	NA	...	NA
Growth	NA	...	NA
HelSci	NA	...	NA
LgCapGow I	NA	...	NA
MidCap	NA	...	NA
NHoriz	NA	...	NA
R2020	16.77	+0.03	0.2
R2025	14.64	+0.02	0.1
R2030	21.88	+0.02	0.1
R2040	24.42	...	...
Putnam Funds Class A			
PutLargCap p	28.19	-0.02	-0.1
Schwab Funds			
1000 Inv r	NA	...	NA
S&P Sel	NA	...	NA
TSM Sel r	NA	...	NA
TIAA/CREF Funds			
EqIdxInst	27.03	-0.12	-0.4
IntlEqIdxInst	19.22	+0.12	0.6
VANGUARD ADMIRAL			
500Adml	352.71	-1.40	-0.4
BalAdml	39.63	-0.02	-0.1
CAITAdml	11.15	+0.02	0.2
CapOpAdml r	145.67	-0.44	-0.3
DivAppIdxAdm	41.19	-0.02	...
EMAdmr	32.71	+0.30	0.9
EqIncAdml	84.40	-0.23	-0.3
ExplrAdml	86.31	-0.57	-0.7
ExtndAdml	100.21	-0.64	-0.6
GNMAAdml	9.21	+0.02	0.2
GrwthAdml	108.96	-0.76	-0.7
HlthCareAdml r	89.60	-0.24	-0.3
HYCorAdml r	5.17	+0.02	0.4
InfProAd	23.24	+0.09	0.4
IntlGrAdml	91.01	+0.61	0.7
ITBondAdml	10.13	+0.05	0.5
ITIGradeAdml	8.36	+0.04	0.5
LarCapAd	87.62	-0.36	-0.4
LTGradeAdml	7.88	+0.08	1.1
MidCpAdml	251.25	-1.22	-0.5
MuHYAdml	10.29	+0.04	0.4
MuIntAdml	13.39	+0.03	0.2
MuLTAdml	10.59	+0.03	0.3
MuLtdAdml	10.68	+0.01	0.1
MuShtAdml	15.58	+0.01	0.1
PrmcpAdml r	130.78	-0.07	-0.1
RealEstatAdml	117.01	+0.14	0.1
SmCapAdml	87.44	-0.50	-0.6
SmGthAdml	69.87	-0.64	-0.9
STBondAdml	9.88	+0.01	0.1
STIGradeAdml	9.96	+0.01	0.1
STIPSIxAdm	23.41	-0.01	...
TotBdAdml	9.52	+0.04	0.4
TotIntBdIdxAdm	19.11	+0.17	0.9
TotIntlAdmIdx r	28.00	+0.14	0.5
TotStAdml	92.70	-0.40	-0.4
TxMCapAdml	196.97	-0.85	-0.4
TxMIn r	13.56	+0.04	0.3
USGroAdml	100.50	-0.82	-0.8
ValAdml	54.67	-0.09	-0.2
WdsrIIAdml	66.12	-0.03	...
WellsIAdml	59.40	+0.16	0.3
WelltnAdml	66.33	...	...
WndsrAdml	68.24	-0.05	-0.1
VANGUARD FDS			
DivdGro	35.16	-0.07	-0.2
IntlVal	36.02	+0.28	0.8
LifeCon	19.15	+0.07	0.4
LifeGro	36.05	+0.02	0.1
LifeMod	27.49	+0.05	0.2
PrmcpCor	27.17	-0.01	...
STAR	24.20	+0.04	0.2
TgtRe2020	25.42	+0.06	0.2
TgtRe2025	16.71	+0.03	0.2
TgtRe2030	31.43	+0.06	0.2
TgtRe2035	19.38	+0.03	0.2
TgtRe2040	34.02	+0.02	0.1
TgtRe2045	22.82	...	...
TgtRe2050	37.80	...	...
TgtRe2060	38.84	+0.01	...
TgtRet2055	42.17	...	...
TgtRetInc	12.28	+0.04	0.3
WellsI	24.52	+0.06	0.2
Welltn	38.42	...	...
WndsrII	37.28	-0.01	...
VANGUARD INDEX FDS			
ExtndIstPl	247.29	-1.56	-0.6
IdxIntl	16.74	+0.08	0.5
MdCpGrAdml	76.70	-0.67	-0.9
MdCpVlAdml	69.97	-0.11	-0.2
SmValAdml	68.03	-0.22	-0.3
TotBd2	9.41	+0.04	0.4
TotIntlInstIdx r	111.96	+0.54	0.5
TotItlInstPlId r	111.99	+0.55	0.5
TotSt	92.68	-0.41	-0.4
VANGUARD INSTL FDS			
BalInst	39.64	-0.02	-0.1
DevMktsIndInst	13.58	+0.05	0.4
DevMktsInxInst	21.23	+0.08	0.4
ExtndInst	100.21	-0.63	-0.6
GrwthInst	108.97	-0.75	-0.7
InPrSeIn	9.47	+0.04	0.4
InstIdx	320.36	-1.27	-0.4
InstPlus	320.35	-1.27	-0.4
InstTStPlus	66.74	-0.29	-0.4
MidCpInst	55.50	-0.27	-0.5
MidCpIstPl	273.73	-1.33	-0.5
RealEstaInstl	18.11	+0.02	0.1
SmCapInst	87.44	-0.49	-0.6
SmCapIstPl	252.38	-1.43	-0.6
STIGradeInst	9.96	+0.01	0.1
STIPSIxins	23.42	-0.02	-0.1
TotBdInst	9.52	+0.04	0.4
TotBdInst2	9.41	+0.04	0.4
TotBdInstPl	9.52	+0.04	0.4
TotIntBdIdxInst	28.68	+0.26	0.9
TotStInst	92.71	-0.41	-0.4
ValueInst	54.67	-0.09	-0.2
WCM Focus Funds			
WCMFocIntlGrwIns	19.74	+0.08	0.4
Western Asset			
CorePlusBdI	NA	...	NA

HEARD ON THE STREET

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

Boeing Delays Keep Airbus A380 Busy

It is looking like Emirates Airline will need most, if not all, of its mothballed planes after all

ANP/ZUMA PRESS
When people started to fly overseas again, and Emirates—the A380's biggest champion—benefited more than most.

The **Airbus** A380, the white elephant of the skies, could be getting a new lease on life. Among its merits: Unlike the **Boeing** 777X, it already exists.

One of the best-performing stocks in London in 2022, having more than doubled, is a tiny company that owned a single asset: one of the Airbus A380s in the Emirates Airline fleet. Most of the gains came in July, when the Dubai carrier agreed to buy the plane for about £25 million, equivalent to about $30 million, once its lease expired. The deal, which closed the week before Christmas, massively improved the expected liquidation value of the investment company, called **Doric Nimrod Air One**.

By extension, the deal lifted expectations of two sister vehicles, **Doric Nimrod Air Two** and **Doric Nimrod Air Three**, which between them own 11 Airbus A380s leased to Emirates on contracts that start to expire October 2023. Among the investors who spotted an opportunity is **Elliott Management**, which disclosed stakes of roughly 11% and 14% in DNA2 and DNA3, respectively, as well as a 6% stake in a more complex vehicle, **Amedeo Air Four Plus**, which owns A380s as well as other planes leased to Thai Airways.

A couple of years ago, the A380 had been all but written off. First, Airbus in 2019 said it would stop making the four-engine plane, which never lived up to sales expectations amid competition from Boeing's 787 Dreamliner and Airbus's A350—smaller but more efficient twin-engine jets. Airlines started writing it out of their fleet plans. Then came the pandemic, decimating travel and pushing many airlines into bankruptcy.

Stocks in the Doric Nimrod family suffered in sympathy. The original DNA was launched 12 years ago with the sole purpose of buying an A380 from Emirates and leasing it back, and the others followed in subsequent years. At the time, the more established aircraft-leasing companies were reluctant to get involved with the double decker, given lingering uncertainties about its use case and residual value—worries that turned out to be prescient.

Last year, people started to fly internationally again, and Emirates—the A380's biggest champion—benefited more than most. It reported $1.2 billion of profit for the six months through September, a record for its fiscal first half, perhaps helped by Dubai's popularity among wealthy Russians. The airline gradually brought mothballed A380s back into service, and told a Dubai travel conference last month that it hopes to have them all out of storage by the end of 2023 so it can operate at pre-Covid levels.

But this isn't just about the recovery in travel, which could be thrown off course by a recession. Boeing's troubles, first with the MAX and now with the Dreamliner, repeatedly pushed back the arrival date of the 777X, an expanded version of Boeing's flagship 777 widebody franchise that Emirates was counting on to phase out the A380. The new plane isn't now expected to land before 2025.

If Emirates needs its A380s, the companies it leases them from should probably be better valued. Even after DNA's deal, the share prices of its sister vehicles imply residual values of roughly $15 million for each A380 they own. That isn't much if you consider that the companies will get $12 million a plane just to take them back in used condition rather than fully refurbished under the terms of their leases.

If Emirates returns the jets, scrap value should easily cover the $3 million a plane nominally at risk. Much more likely, it will negotiate with the planes' owners to extend the leases or buy the planes, opening up the prospect of better returns. Richard Evans, cofounder of Texas hedge fund **Mara River Capital**, which owns shares in DNA3, points out the favorable skew of an investment with a floor under potential losses and an improving likelihood of gains.

The catch is it is hard to say just how far the gains could go. DNA1's approximately $30 million is a reassuring data point, but this isn't a normal market: Emirates is the only airline that really relies on the plane, giving it substantial "monopsony" bargaining power. What do you get when a wealthy buyer needs a secondhand product, but nobody else does? Presumably more than scrap—but the sky might not be the limit.

—Stephen Wilmot

Short Bets Saved Columnists in 2022

Journalists are sometimes criticized for having a negative bias, but in Heard on the Street's annual stock-picking contest at least, a few pessimistic takes have been our columnists' saving grace.

The current contest began on Aug. 8 and will run a full year, but an examination of the results through the end of 2022 is still instructive. Our team of columnists around the world each had to make two picks, which could be long bets or short ones, profiting from a declining share price. The latter opens an investor up to theoretically unlimited losses but a maximum gain of just 100%. Only a handful opted to take that risk, but it paid off handsomely—they are leading the contest so far.

Out of 30 total picks, there were just five short ones. Four of the five shorts made money, and three were among the top four total picks. The best bet overall was one against electric-vehicle startup **Arrival** by Heard on the Street's Europe editor and auto specialist Stephen Wilmot for a total return of 86.7% through the end of the year. "The odds are stacked against it arriving at the point of positive cash flows without a bigger influx of capital that would likely leave minority shareholders in the dust," Mr. Wilmot wrote at the time.

Source: FactSet

Even that smattering of pessimism proved enough for Heard's columnists to beat the market through the end of the year, although not enough to generate a positive return. Our picks posted an average total return—including dividends—of negative 3.8% from early August through Dec. 31, compared with a 6.7% loss in the S&P 500 over the same period. Our long picks alone lost 13.2%.

The S&P 500 had its worst year since 2008, but the columnists' picks so far weren't just a matter of luck. The particular nature of this downturn—which has punished fanciful business models chasing far-distant future cash flows—seems to have been particularly well suited to Heard writers' sensibilities. Other successful shorts included one against cash-burning orthodontic corrective maker **SmileDirectClub** and one against **Lilium**, the German "air taxi" startup, returning 78.3% and 54%, respectively.

The best long bet and second-best pick overall was for **Manchester United**'s U.S.-listed shares by columnist Justin Lahart, returning 71.9% through the end of year. Reasoning that the company could be sold, he saw value in the legendary soccer club's market value of around $2.8 billion at the time, noting that rival Chelsea FC had just been bought for around $5.3 billion. Sure enough, Manchester United's shares soared when the U.S. owners announced in November that they were exploring a sale.

Could 2023 bring fortunes for the market and, in turn, for Heard's underwater long bets? That would be in keeping with historical trends: The last time stocks were down two years in a row was two decades ago. But the market's reassessment of unprofitable tech and other highly speculative bets seems likely to endure, at least for a while. That bodes well for some of our columnists' short bets through the contest's end in August 2023.

Timing the market is notoriously difficult, but calling out excessive exuberance can pay off occasionally. Remember that next time you are annoyed by a negative Heard column.

—Aaron Back

Beijing Puts Chill on China's Answer to Robinhood

BUDRUL CHUKRUT/SOPA IMAGES/ZUMA PRESS
Shares of Futu Holdings and Tiger Brokers plunged around 30% on Friday.

China is sending more-friendly signals to businesses again lately. But **Robinhood**-like online brokers are still getting no love from Beijing in the new year.

U.S.-listed Chinese online brokers **Futu Holdings** and **UP Fintech**, which is usually known as Tiger Brokers, didn't end 2022 in a joyous mood. Their shares plunged around 30% on Friday after Chinese regulators said they have engaged in illegal operations allowing customers in mainland China to make cross-border trades. On Thursday, Futu said it would postpone its planned dual listing in Hong Kong; its shares had been scheduled to start trading there on Friday.

Futu and Tiger are popular, low-fee trading platforms for Chinese investors to trade stocks listed in the U.S. and Hong Kong. Their businesses boomed during the pandemic, just as Robinhood's did in the U.S.

The two brokers have long operated in a gray area, allowing mainland Chinese investors—who can usually invest only limited amounts in overseas securities through special, state-sanctioned arrangements—to independently trade overseas stocks. In 2021, state media criticized the companies for violating China's securities laws. That sparked a massive selloff in their stocks—until a few months ago when Beijing began shifting its focus back to economic growth and edging away from strict pandemic restrictions and crackdowns on private businesses. Futu's shares gained 82% in November while Tiger's rose 40%.

But China's renewed goodwill toward business doesn't seem to extend to Futu and Tiger. Cross-border securities transactions can facilitate capital outflows, potentially undermining China's tight capital controls.

Regulators said the two brokers have to stop taking new mainland Chinese customers. Existing domestic investors can continue to trade, but they won't be able to deposit new money into their accounts. Futu and Tiger have diversified their customer bases outside mainland China. But mainland Chinese investors still accounted for around one-third of Futu's paying customers as of June. They also still accounted for 44% of its revenue for the six-month period that ended in June.

Chinese businesses have breathed a sigh of relief as the government ditches its previously strict zero-Covid policies and puts its attention back on growth. But not everyone will benefit from the warmer atmosphere: China's online brokers remain firmly out in the cold.

—Jacky Wong

Tesla Sales Miss Puts Spotlight On Margins

Clarity on its growth to come later this month

Tesla's disappointing deliveries won't be the last headline about car sales this week. But investors will need to wait longer for firm answers to a more important question: How valuable are those sales?

The electric-vehicle maker reported global deliveries of roughly 405,000 for the fourth quarter, bringing the annual total to roughly 1.3 million. While that was 40% higher than the year earlier, it was below analyst expectations, as well as below the company's target of 50% growth in deliveries a year "over a multiyear horizon." The stock was down 12% Tuesday.

Tesla didn't have the "epic" quarter Chief Executive Elon Musk hinted at in October, before he sold almost $4 billion of stock. Tesla has a history of falling short of its CEO's grand ambitions, but investors need to take his pronouncements—such as Tesla being potentially worth as much as Apple and Saudi Aramco combined—with a bigger dose of salt since his expensive embroilment with **Twitter**, which has given him a continuing reason to sell Tesla shares.

Tesla pointed to an increase in vehicles in transit as it shifts to a "more even regional mix of vehicle builds." A more balanced production footprint as Tesla serves European customers from Germany rather than China might be expected to decrease transportation times, but logistics has been a constraint—and a rising cost—across the industry in recent months. Tesla said it made almost 440,000 vehicles in the fourth quarter, or 8.5% more than it delivered. Unlike most car makers, Tesla doesn't have third-party dealers on which it can unload inventory to flatter sales before the year-end.

Its rivals will report their quarterly sales in the coming days, though many of the headline numbers will be for the U.S. market. Preliminary tallies suggest total U.S. sales for 2022 of under 14 million, worse than in lockdown-affected 2020 or 2021 when supply shortages started to bite.

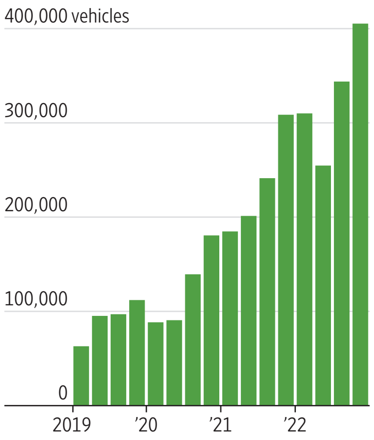
But this has been a topsy-turvy market in which limited production helped car makers and dealers charge high prices and make more profit than before on each vehicle they sell. The big question for auto investors is therefore whether margins are starting to drop as demand weakens, despite the continuing constraints on deliveries. There have been some early signs that they are, with sales incentives creeping up in the U.S. and discounting from Tesla.

For the EV market specifically, subsidies are a complication. Some Teslas qualify for tax credits starting this year, which could be a reason why the company struggled to shift as many vehicles as it hoped last quarter—even though it offered discounts in the U.S. equivalent to the full $7,500 rebate. To make matters messier, just before Christmas the Treasury Department delayed until March the implementation of certain tough sourcing conditions that EVs will need to meet to qualify, opening a brief window during which the subsidies could be unexpectedly generous. Consumers may rush to benefit before the window closes, accelerating U.S. EV demand disproportionately in the first quarter.

The key debate for all automotive stocks is whether supply is starting to exceed demand as consumer sentiment weakens. The fourth-quarter earnings season that starts later this month will bring more clarity but, for Tesla in particular, it won't put it to rest.

—Stephen Wilmot

Tesla's quarterly deliveries



Source: the company